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BSF to discuss B'deshi assault on Indian troops with BGB

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday said the forthcoming meeting between the heads of border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh in Delhi will discuss the issues of assault on its troops and Indian civilians by Bangladesh nationals, stopping entry of criminals from across the border and the breaching of the frontier fence by Bangladeshis.

The 57th edition of the bi-annual Director General-level border coordination conference between the BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will be held at the headquarters of the force located on Lodhi Road between June 8 and 11.

The Indian delegation will be led by BSF DG Praveen Kumar while the BGB team will be headed by its DG Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, the BSF said in a statement.

"During the course of the conference, discussions will be held on prevention against assault on BSF personnel and Indian civilians by Bangladesh nationals, to prevent trans-border crimes, prevent entry of Bangladesh criminals into India, incidents of fence breaching by Bangladesh nationals and construction of fence.

"The discussions will also include action against Indian insurgent groups (IIGs) in Bangladesh, issues related to border infrastructure, Confidence Building Measures (CBM) and other issues," the statement said.

Gujarat police detain 362 illegal 'Bangladeshi immigrants'

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Gujarat police on Wednesday claimed to have caught 362 people suspected of being illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

The statewide crackdown on illegal immigrants was named 'Operation Delta Hunt', details of which were shared by Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi during a press briefing.

During the operation over the past 72 hours, a total of 6,200 suspicious persons were rounded up across the state. Following verifications, 362 of them were found to be staying illegally, while 780 cases were being investigated closely.

"It was a statewide operation based on human intelligence and technical surveillance. In just one night, such a large number of Bangladeshis were caught. It is a historical success for which I congratulate right from police constables to the DGP," Sanghavi said.

He said that besides taking further action of deporting the undocumented people by involving Union government agencies, police are also looking into the network of people who gave them jobs, documents, and other assistance.

During the operation, police teams caught 18 individuals from highways, railway, bus stations among other places who were allegedly trying to escape.

Police claimed that some of the alleged Bangladeshi nationals came to Gujarat from West Bengal two to four years ago.

Police said that during their stay, they obtained documents such as Aadhaar cards from West Bengal with the help of local middlemen.

India condemns Kuwait airport attack that killed Indian national

Urges that civilian population, infra must not be targeted

LATEST UPDATES

- The identity of the deceased Indian is not immediately known
- Casualty brings total number of Indian fatalities to at least 10 since US-Iran hostilities began on Feb 28
- Indian mission in Kuwait extends all possible help

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Wednesday condemned an attack on Kuwait International Airport that left one Indian national dead and several others injured, while renewing calls for an end to such violence.

New Delhi also strongly urged that the civilian population and civilian infrastructure must not be targeted.

The identity of the deceased Indian is not immediately known. The casualty brought the total number of Indian fatalities to at least 10 since US-Iran hostilities began on February 28.

"We condemn the attack on the Kuwait International Airport today in which an Indian national has died and several of our nationals are injured," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"Since the onset of the conflict in West Asia, we have strongly urged that civilian population and civilian infrastructure must not be targeted. We again call upon parties to cease such attacks," it said in a statement.

The MEA said the Indian mission in Kuwait was extending all possible assistance to those injured. "We offer our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. Our Embassy is extending all possible assistance to those injured. We remain in close contact with local authorities for the welfare of Indians," the MEA said.

It said the Indian missions and posts across the region are on alert and continue to proactively support our community.

Kuwait expressed its "deepest condolences at the tragic demise of an Indian national due to an attack on the airport in Kuwait today".

The Indian embassy in Kuwait said it was "closely coordinating" with the Kuwaiti authorities to render all possible support and assistance to the bereaved family as well as those injured in the incident.

Kuwait suspended air traffic on Wednesday after the Iranian strikes hit Terminal One of the airport. The attack came amid escalating tensions between the US and Iran.

Modi will lose power in a year, claims Rahul

Says system once controlled by PM is collapsing

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday warned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi may impose "something like Emergency" to ward off public pressure following the collapse of the system he once controlled. He said his assessment is that Modi will lose power within a year.

Rahul Gandhi

Addressing tribal leaders at an event organised by the Adivasi Congress, Rahul cautioned of an approaching "terrible economic tsunami" that cannot be stopped, claiming the ruling BJP has dismantled India's "shock absorbers" against global economic volatility.

He claimed that the system "once controlled" by Modi is "collapsing and now providing information" about the PM and his Cabinet colleagues to him. Rahul said people can see that enormous public pressure is about to build, making the situation risky for them.

"Within India, there is an institutional revolt taking place inside the system. You think that the Election Commission is fully controlled... Messages from the Chief Election Commissioner are reaching me. The heads of the intelligence system, members of the senior judiciary... all of them are revolting. They are giving us information," he said.

Asking whether election commissioners would not be fearful if the public realised that elections were rigged and that economic pressure, poverty and suffering were fuelling anger, he said the entire system is shaking from within. "Now, they may try to suppress public pressure and impose something like an Emergency. That is possible," the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha said.

Rahul warned that an economic crisis will hit India that one may never have seen in their lifetime.

BILATERAL OUTREACH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with Nepal's Rastriya Swatantra Party president Rabi Lamichhane. Nepal is India's priority partner and New Delhi is looking forward to collaborating with the new government in the country, Modi said in a post on X. PTI

Kerala govt faces nepotism, 'vindictive transfer' charges

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

In a tit-for-tat over allegations of nepotism and politically motivated transfers that the previous CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala had faced, the LDF is now accusing the ruling Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) of the same.

The LDF alleges nepotism in the appointment of Power Minister Sunny Joseph's brother-in-law, Benny Thomas, as his additional private secretary. It also claims that government officials linked to Left parties are being widely transferred by the Congress government in an inhumane manner.

"Even government employees under medical treatment and those nearing retirement are being transferred in violation of norms. The Congress government is taking vindictive actions without any humane consideration," alleged former chief minister and Opposition leader Pinarayi Vijayan.

Sunny Joseph, who also serves as Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president, responded that transfers were made only for administrative reasons and denied any vindictive intent.

Joseph, speaking on behalf of Chief Minister VD Satheesan in his absence, did not address the nepotism allegations.

Cong clarifies

Congress leaders clarified that Benny Thomas has long been an active local leader in Kannur and, therefore, his appointment could not be termed nepotism. He is the general secretary of the Kannur District Congress Committee and has also served as president of the Ulikkal grama panchayat.

It may be recalled that when the LDF government led by Pinarayi Vijayan came to power in 2016, it faced allegations of nepotism and politically motivated transfers of government officials to settle scores. Industries Minister EP Jayarajan was forced to resign after appointing a close relative as managing director of a public sector undertaking.

Fresh scrutiny to leave many Bengal women without welfare scheme aid

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Women who send their children to independent madrasas, which are unaided and unrecognised by the government, or fail to get them immunised, will not be entitled to the monthly financial assistance provided under the Annapurna Yojana, which the West Bengal government began rolling out on Wednesday.

A woman is also likely to be denied the benefit if she has been deleted from the voter rolls during the Special Intensive Revision and her plea for restoration of voting rights has been rejected by the appellate tribunals.

The new BJP administration in the state has started disbursing monthly financial aid through a repackaged version of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme run by the erstwhile Trinamool Congress government, which offered assistance to women except those receiving government salaries or pensions.

People collect forms for the Annapurna Yojana, under which women beneficiaries will get Rs 3,000 per month as financial assistance, in Nadia, on Wednesday. PTI

Nearly 2.42 crore beneficiaries of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme had earlier been receiving monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,500 in the general category and Rs 1,700 for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The BJP government, however, has decided that each eligible woman will now receive Rs 3,000 per month.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said on Wednesday that the state government has begun directly transferring the amount to the bank accounts of more than 28.25 lakh women. As the process of assessing eligibility continues, more beneficiaries will start receiving assistance under the Annapurna Yojana, one of the BJP's key election promises. He added that while the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme will not be discontinued immediately, women who begin receiving benefits under the new programme will no longer be covered by the old one.

Adhikari alleged that the erstwhile TMC government had not only turned a blind eye and allowed several men to illegally avail themselves of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme meant for women, but also permitted a large number of beneficiaries who had been permanently stripped of voting rights to continue receiving benefits under its social welfare programmes. He said this was why the BJP government required every woman seeking benefits under the Annapurna Yojana to submit fresh applications so that eligibility could be reassessed.

"We obviously don't want any non-Indian to receive money from the public exchequer," he said, indicating that women who lost voting rights during the roll-revision exercise in the state would not be eligible for benefits.

TVK allots RS seat to Cong; Praveen may be nominated

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Walking the extra mile to strengthen its alliance, Tamil Nadu's ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on Wednesday allotted to the Congress the lone Rajya Sabha seat going for a bypoll on June 18.

The bypoll was necessitated due to the resignation of the AIADMK's C Ve Shanmugam, who won the recently-concluded Assembly elections.

The Congress is likely to nominate Praveen Chakravarty, who is widely seen as an architect of the TVK-Congress alliance, to the seat. This would take the Congress' number of Rajya Sabha members from the state to three, alongside P Chidambaram and Christopher Tilak, who were elected in 2022 and 2026, respectively, with the DMK's support.

DH had reported on May 23 that the TVK was likely to allot the Rajya Sabha seat to the Congress.

With 107 MLAs, the TVK could have easily secured the seat without a contest, making its debut in the Rajya Sabha within 26 months of the party's launch.

The announcement from TVK president C Joseph Vijay came hours after the Congress' TN in-charge Girish Chodankar met him at the Secretariat and made a formal request.

Sources told *DH* that the CM was interested in allotting the seat to Praveen, who played a key role in pushing the Congress leadership to quit the DMK alliance immediately after the election results were announced and express support to the TVK. "He (Vijay) wanted to recognise Praveen's contributions, and what better way than sending him to the Rajya Sabha?" they said.

By allotting the RS seat to the Congress, Vijay has demonstrated his willingness to keep his allies in good humour and further alienate the DMK from "secular forces".

Nod to highway projects worth over Rs 24k crore

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Wednesday approved over Rs 24,000 crore worth highway projects spread across different states.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of new coastal Highway from Rameshwar to Paradeep on Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) in Odisha under two packages with a combined total length of 160.18 km and combined total capital cost of Rs 8,300.79 crore.

The project section of new coastal Highway from Rameshwar to Paradeep passes through Khurda, Puri, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur Districts of Odisha. The existing road network of NH-16 is part of the Golden Quadrilateral and is already a 6-lane highway passing through major towns Khordha, Bhubaneswar, and Cuttack.

The CCEA also approved upgradation of the Khagaria-Purnea Section of NH-31 and NH-231 to the 4-Lane Standard in Bihar on BOT (Toll) Mode at a cost of Rs 3,936.05 crore.

The proposed upgradation of the Khagaria-Purnea Section of NH-31 and NH-231in Bihar will address severe geometric deficiencies, sharp curves, and congestion in built-up areas across Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Katihar and Purnia districts.

The widening of the existing Armoor-Jagtial-Mancherial Section of NH-63 on HAM and Jagtial-Karimnagar Section of NH-563 on BOT (Toll) to the 4-lane standard under three work packages with a combined total length of 190.76 km and combined total capital cost of Rs 7,597.16 crore was also approved.

Cabinet clears incentives to replace old NCR trucks, buses

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a major incentive scheme for replacing old trucks and buses in the Delhi-NCR region with cleaner vehicles, aiming to significantly reduce vehicular emissions and improve air quality in one of India's most polluted areas.

The scheme targets owners of BS-IV and older emission-norm vehicles registered in Delhi and the National Capital Region. It incentivises the replacement of these vehicles with BS-VI or stricter emission-compliant vehicles or electric vehicles (EVs).

According to the government, the scheme will benefit approximately 2.07 lakh vehicle owners — 1.91 lakh truck owners and 16,329 bus owners — across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Key Incentives including the Centre will provide:5% interest subvention on loans for five years, monthly fuel vouchers of up to Rs 4,800, depending on the vehicle category, lump-sum benefits for the purchase of EVs or certificate of deposit trading.

Anti-conversion law: Christian body warns Arunachal govt

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A 48-year-old law aimed at checking forced conversions in Arunachal Pradesh continues to be a concern, with an influential Christian forum serving a 15-day "ultimatum" to the BJP government to suspend its fresh move to implement the Act.

The Arunachal Christian Forum on Monday submitted a memorandum to the state government warning that implementation of the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act (APFRA), 1978, could have "far-reaching consequences", affecting constitutional rights, freedom of religion, social harmony and peaceful coexistence among the people of the state.

"Despite appeals and concerns from several organisations, the state government appears determined to frame rules for implementing the Act. Such action, without broad consensus and meaningful consultations, is likely to create avoidable tension and unrest in the state," the forum said.

It threatened to launch "drastic yet democratic" protests if the government failed to halt the rule-making process within 15 days.

The Pema Khandu government recently initiated steps to frame rules in response to strong agitation by organisations practising the indigenous faith (worship of nature alone). These groups claim that Christian organisations are resorting to conversions by force and inducement, leading to a sharp decline in the number of people following the indigenous faith.

SPECIAL SWEET

Despite ghee row, Tirumala laddu sales hit record 1.2 crore in May

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The revered prasadam of devotees of Lord Sri Venkateswara of Tirumala across the world, the sacred Tirumala laddu, recorded all-time high sales figures in May, with more than 1.2 crore of them sold during the month.

The "Srivari Laddu Prasadam" holds a special place in the Tirumala pilgrimage. However, it was recently embroiled in controversy following reports that highly adulterated cow ghee had been used in the preparation of the sacred prasadam in recent years.

Preparations of the sacred Tirumala laddu

Yet, that did not seem to have dimmed demand. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has substantially enhanced laddu production and ensured a seamless, uninterrupted supply to devotees by adopting state-of-the-art advanced equipment.

Record-breaking sales figures in May stood at 1,21,35,528 laddus, compared with 1.01 crore in 2024 and 1.10 crore in 2025 during the same month.

Every day, around 68 tonnes of raw materials are used in the preparation of the sacred laddus. To prepare one regular laddu, around 167–170 gm of raw materials are used, including approximately 78 gm of sugar, 39 gm of Bengal gram dal (BG dal), 36 gm of ghee, 7 gm of cashew nuts, 3 gm of raisins and other ingredients.

The Tirupati Laddu has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) status by the Government of India. TTD holds a valid FSSAI licence for the preparation and distribution of laddus.

Two AI-based colour-sorting machines have been installed in the Srivari Potu to identify and remove impurities from raw materials, while all materials undergo laboratory testing before approval.

Cyberabad police bust fake cop gang that extorted businessmen

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Cyberabad Police have busted a gang that impersonated police officers to kidnap, extort, and intimidate businessmen and high-net-worth individuals across multiple states. Five have been apprehended, while a sixth is absconding.

The crime came to light on May 20, when Kukatpally-resident Kavuri Purnachandra Rao (42) filed a police complaint about an incident on May 18, when he was intercepted by a car while riding his motorcycle.

Three men stepped out, said they were cops, and told him he had been booked in a criminal case in Haryana.

Told to go with them for questioning, he had his phone, ATM card, and cash confiscated, and his banking credentials taken by force.

Bengaluru Thursday, June 4, 2026 Pages 18 Vol 79 No 154 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Shnaider stuns world No. 1 Sabalenka in French Open quarters

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TMC split: 50 rebel MLAs back Ritabrata as LoP

Mamata dissolves party committees and frontal organisations

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Ritabrata Banerjee addresses the media in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

The Trinamool Congress suffered a split on Wednesday, as 58 of its 80 legislators elected Ritabrata Bandopadhyay, who had been expelled by the party recently, as the leader of the TMC legislature party.

The split – the first in the 28-year history of the TMC – cast a shadow over the fate of the party, which crumbled over the past few weeks after losing power to the BJP.

As Ritabrata was granted the Leader of the Opposition status by Speaker Rathindra Bose, the TMC leadership dissolved all committees and its frontal organisation, and vowed to strengthen its organisation to meet future challenges.

The TMC is also losing control of several municipal councils, with its councillors resigning or facing police action.

Mamata gave her go-ahead to her close aide, Firhad Hakim, to quit as Mayor of Kolkata. Hakim had earlier sought permission to resign in view of the impasse in the Kolkata Municipal Council following the BJP's landslide victory in the assembly elections.

"We are the real TMC in the Legislative Assembly," Ritabrata told journalists after his plea for the status of the Leader of the Opposition.

▸ TMC, Page 7

INNINGS BEGINS WITH A SIX: Rs 2k crore for B'luru roads, khata relief among 6 schemes

DKS on day one as CM: Free bus travel for students, jobs for locals

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administers the oath to D K Shivakumar who was sworn in as chief minister in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar kickstarted his tenure on Wednesday with six major announcements targeting youngsters and urban voters, including free bus travel for all students -- boys and girls -- and a government-run employment programme for Kannadigas to land private sector jobs.

Shivakumar announced these decisions after chairing his first Cabinet meeting with 13 of his Cabinet colleagues, including Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara.

"We have decided that all students, whoever it may be, right from school to postgraduation, will get free bus passes. They will have to apply for the passes because we will need to identify students," Shivakumar said. Asked how much this would cost, he said: "We will implement it regardless of the cost. This is D K Shivakumar's government."

At present, the Shakti scheme provides free bus travel for women. "Boys kept asking why only girls had free travel," Shivakumar pointed out.

In what he said was a "big decision", Shivakumar announced that the government will start employment exchanges for the private sector. Through this, the government plans to fix a quota for Kannadigas in the private sector.

"The government will start employment exchanges for private sector jobs. Those seeking jobs in the private sector can enrol with the government. We will provide training and map candidates with the private sector," Shivakumar said, adding that this will be "entirely online so that there is no influence".

The government will fix a percentage of jobs that should be given to local Kannadigas, Shivakumar said. "We will take the industry into confidence. Within a month, I have asked three of my Cabinet colleagues to plan this out and give a report," he said.

With an eye on the upcoming civic polls under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Shivakumar announced a fresh Rs 2,000 crore grant for road works in the city.

▸ DKS, Page 7
More reports on Page 5

Siddaramaiah loyalists dominate new Cabinet

BENGALURU, DHNS: Doddalahalli Kempegowda Shivakumar (64), on Wednesday, took oath as the 24th chief minister of Karnataka at Lok Bhavan, along with 13 Cabinet ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara.

After days of hectic parleying, the Congress played it safe by inducting 11 old faces and two new ones — former minister and Speaker U T Khader and debutant Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah — into the 34-member state Cabinet, while 20 berths remain to be filled.

With Shivakumar succeeding Siddaramaiah after a prolonged power tussle, Cabinet formation remained a challenge amid lobbying by both factions and the need to balance caste and regional equations. Siddaramaiah appears to have had the upper hand in round one, with 11 of his old Cabinet colleagues finding berths: Byrati Suresh, Satish Jarkiholi, K J George, Krishna Byregowda, Eshwar Khandre, Priyank Kharge, Sharan Prakash Patil, M B Patil, K H Muniyappa, Ramalinga Reddy and G Parameshwara.

TEAM DKS

- G Parameshwara
- K H Muniyappa
- K J George
- M B Patil
- Ramalinga Reddy
- Satish Jarkiholi
- Krishna Byregowda
- Priyank Kharge
- U T Khader
- Eshwar Khandre
- Yathindra Siddaramaiah
- Byrathi Suresh
- Sharan Prakash Patil

Wary of Siddaramaiah's exit, the party seems to have accommodated his recommendations, besides his MLC son Yathindra and AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge's son Priyank.

▸ Cabinet, Page 7

B K Hariprasad is new state Congress chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior Congress leader and MLC B K Hariprasad (71), was on Wednesday appointed as the 23rd Karnataka Congress president, returning an OBC leader to the post after 23 years.

Hariprasad, a Billava (Ediga), replaces CM D K Shivakumar, who held the Karnataka Congress presidency since 2020.

Hariprasad's elevation coincides with Shivakumar becoming the CM, with the party banking on a Billava-OBC leader to retain its Ahinda coalition following Siddaramaiah's exit. The last OBC party chief was Janardhan Poojary, also a Billava from Dakshina Kannada, in 2003. A Nehru-Gandhi family loyalist, Hariprasad has deep Congress roots. He joined the party in 1972 and grew up the ranks through NSUI and Youth Congress.

▸ Hariprasad, Page 7

12 foreign nationals among 21 killed in Delhi hotel fire

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A raging fire in a 'bed and breakfast' hotel operating without a fire NOC in a congested bylane in south Delhi on Wednesday morning snuffed out the lives of 21 people, including 12 foreigners who had come to India as bystanders for their relatives undergoing treatment in nearby hospitals.

People attempt to douse a fire at a hotel in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

The blaze broke out at the Flourish Stay B&B in Hauz Rani in Malviya Nagar, at around 8.30 am, leaving the nearly 60 occupants in a death trap, as the five-storied building with sealed windows and sensor-operated main door had one entry-exit point.

Fifty-eight people were rescued and rushed to nearby hospitals, where 21 were declared dead on arrival, officials said. The dead include 9 Indians, while the others were from Central Asia and Africa, the officials added.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police has arrested Lavkesh Bajaj, owner of the hotel, officials said.

▸ Delhi hotel fire, Page 7

Matter of names

Guv objects to deviation during oath-taking

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Wednesday objected to Deputy CM G Parameshwara and Minister M B Patil taking oath in the name of B R Ambedkar and 12th-century social reformer Basavanna, respectively. Incidentally, even as CM D K Shivakumar took oath in the name of Veera Gangadhara Ajjayya.

P 5

High net worth

Shivakumar country's richest chief minister

With declared assets of Rs 1,413 crore, D K Shivakumar will be India's richest chief minister, beating the combined wealth of 10 CMs of the Hindi heartland states, according to the latest available election affidavits. Shivakumar's total net worth would have increased by now, driven by appreciation of land rates.

P 5

Unlucky politician

CM post eludes Dalit leader again

G Parameshwara took oath as the deputy chief minister for a second time on Wednesday, as the chief minister's chair evaded the Dalit leader yet again. A six-time MLA from Tumakuru district, who joined the D K Shivakumar Cabinet as his deputy, had been lobbying hard for CM's post but lost it to Shivakumar.

P 4

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India faces new US tariffs over 'forced labour'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The United States Trade Representative on Wednesday announced imposition of additional tariffs ranging from 10% to 12.5% on imports from India and other economies for alleged use of forced labour.

The Donald Trump administration has announced imposition of new tariffs following investigation under Section 301 of the US Trade Act, 1974, which authorises it to take action against foreign policies or practices that it views as unfair or harmful to its trade and commercial interests. Page 13

Indian national dies in Kuwait airport attack

DUBAI, PTI: An Indian national was killed and several others injured in an attack that targeted Kuwait International Airport, officials said on Wednesday. In a post on X, the Embassy of India in Kuwait said it is "closely coordinating" with the Kuwaiti authorities to extend all possible support and assistance to the bereaved family as well as those injured in the incident. In a statement, the Kuwait Army said the Iranian strikes resulted in the death of an Indian expatriate and injuries to several individuals.

Earlier, an Indian national was killed in Kuwait in Iranian strikes on a power and water desalination plant on March 30. Page 12

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◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Bengaluru Climate Convention: Inauguration by Manjula Aravind Limbavali, KC Ramamurthy, Madan Padaki and Clement Jayakumar; WeMove Foundation; CMRIT, AECS Layout, Whitefield; 10 am.

'The Incredible Chef Challenge' Cooking Competition: Inauguration by Damodaran and Vijayabhaskaran; South India Chefs Association; Tripura Vasini, Palace Grounds; from 11 am onwards.

Nalvadi Jayanti, M Venkataswamy's 78th Birthday and Parivartana Convention: Inauguration by HD Kumaraswamy; Guest: G Parameshwara; Samata Sainika Dala; Town Hall; 11 am.

Nalvadi Jayanti, Kannada Kattalu and Nava Kannadiga Award Ceremony: Inauguration by Ranjan Kumar; Guest: Dharmendra Kumar Arenehalli; HAL Central Kannada Sangha; Old HAL Auditorium, HAL; from 3.30 pm.

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Badrinath-Kedarnath by Helicopter - 3 / 5 Days
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03 Chardham Yatra
12 Days
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93641 04373

04 Leh - Ladakh
6 Days
Dates: JUN 17, 24. JUL 8, 15, 22, 29. AUG 5, 12, 19, 26. SEP 2, 16.
70222 59002

05 Kashi-Gaya-Ayodhya-Prayagraj
6 / 7 Days
Dates: JUN 17. JUL 8, 22. AUG 5, 19. SEP 2, 16. OCT 7, 21. NOV 4, 18. DEC 2, 16.
93640 88424

06 Nainital-Kausani -Jim Corbett
6 Days
Dates: AUG 5, 19. SEP 2, 16. OCT 7, 21. NOV 4, 18. DEC 2, 16.
70222 59003

07 Enchanting Kashmir
6 Days
Dates: JUN 17. JUL 8, 22. AUG 5, 19. SEP 2, 16. OCT 7, 21. NOV 4, 18. DEC 2, 16.
70222 59003

08 Naturally Meghalaya
5 Days
Dates: JUN 10, 17, 24. JUL 8, 15, 22, 29. AUG 5, 12, 19, 26. SEP 2, 9, 23. OCT 14, 28. NOV 11, 25. DEC 9, 16.
70222 59002

09 Sikkim-Darjeeling
6 / 8 / 11 Days
Dates: JUN 10, 17, 24. JUL 8, 15, 22, 29. AUG 5, 12, 19, 26. SEP 2, 9, 23. OCT 14, 28. NOV 11, 25. DEC 9, 16.
70222 59002

10 Puri-Konark -Bhubaneshwar
4 Days
Dates: JUN 10, 17. JUL 15, 22, 29. AUG 5, 12, 19, 26. SEP 2, 9, 23. OCT 14, 28. NOV 11, 25. DEC 9, 16.
70222 59005

11 Andaman Islands
5 Days
Dates: JUN 17. JUL 8, 22. AUG 5, 19. SEP 2, 16. OCT 7, 21. NOV 4, 18. DEC 2, 16.
79750 01525

12 Ujjain-Omkareshwar
5 Days
Dates: JUN 10, 24. JUL 8, 22. AUG 5, 12, 19, 26. SEP 9, 23. OCT 7, 14, 28. NOV 4, 11, 18, 25. DEC 2, 9, 16.
93641 04366

13 Rameshwaram-Kanyakumari -Thiruvananthapuram
4 Days
Dates: JUN 17. JUL 8, 22. AUG 5, 19. SEP 2, 16. OCT 7, 21. NOV 4, 18. DEC 2, 16.
93641 04366

IT corridor floods: ORRCA blames poor drain upkeep

Industry body seeks urgent desilting after rains trigger waterlogging

BENGALURU, DHNS

Waterlogging at the Devarabeesanahalli upper ramp caused congestion along the Kadubeesanahalli-Bellandur stretch following a downpour on Tuesday. FILE PHOTO

The Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) has blamed poor maintenance of the city's stormwater drainage network and roadside drains for the flooding that crippled key stretches of the IT corridor on Tuesday evening following heavy rain.

In a statement issued after large parts of the Outer Ring Road (ORR), including Panathur, Balagere and Varthur were inundated, the association said blocked shoulder drains, poorly maintained stormwater drains, and bottlenecks in the drainage network were among the main reasons for recurring flooding.

The association shared the statement on X, formerly Twitter.

The heavy rain led to extensive waterlogging and severe traffic congestion, leaving thousands of commuters stranded for hours across the technology corridor.

ORRCA said stormwater drains at several locations remain clogged with plastic waste, silt, sand and construction debris, reducing their carrying capacity during intense rainfall.

The association also pointed to encroachments on drains and rajakaluves, along with disruptions caused by infrastructure and metro works, as factors contributing to the flooding.

Calling for urgent measures ahead of the peak monsoon season, ORRCA urged the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to undertake corridor-wide stormwater drain desilting and cleaning, remove encroachments along rajakaluves, restore original drain widths, and assess drainage capacity at vulnerable locations.

The association also recommended upgrading bottleneck culverts and introducing a real-time flood monitoring and rapid response system for critical junctions along the Outer Ring Road.

It maintained that long-term flood mitigation in the technology corridor would require integrated stormwater infrastructure planning rather than road improvements alone.

Crores spent, but where?

In a separate post, Whitefield Rising questioned how funds are being spent in the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency.

"This is not a money issue. There is thousands of crores. And its been spent. But where has the money gone?" the post read, drawing attention and sharp criticism to the gap between ground realities and a slew of announcements for the technology corridor.

ORRCA has urged the GBA to:

- Desilt and clean stormwater drains across the corridor.
- Remove encroachments on rajakaluves.
- Restore original drain widths.
- Assess drainage capacity in flood-prone areas.

East Corporation inspects flood-hit areas

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) on Wednesday conducted a review meeting in the wake of flooding in key stretches of the city's tech corridor.

The meeting also assessed the progress of road development works, stormwater drain maintenance, junction improvement projects, road restoration activities, and grievance redressal efforts across its jurisdiction.

Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh instructed officials to ensure the timely completion of all ongoing works.

He also directed engineers to undertake immediate desilting and maintenance of both concrete-lined and earthen stormwater drains through annual maintenance contracts.

Officials were asked to prioritise corrective measures at waterlogging-prone locations identified by the traffic police and ensure smooth vehicular movement during the rainy season.

Ramesh directed executive engineers to complete asphalting of roads where civil works have already been completed, by June 9. He also announced deadlines for the remaining state-funded works.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	22.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	71%
Sunset (Jun 4)	6:43 pm
Sunrise (Jun 5)	5:52 am
Moonrise	9:22 pm
Moonset	8:02 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Cancellation of trains

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) said it would cancel/partially cancel the following trains due to line block for engineering works between KR Puram and Whitefield Panel Cabin:

Trains 20623 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru Express and 20624 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram Express will be cancelled on June 8.

Train number 66533 Marikuppam-KR Puram MEMU will be partially cancelled between Whitefield and KR Puram on June 7, short-terminating at Whitefield.

Train number 66534 KR Puram-Kuppam MEMU will be partially cancelled between KR Puram and Whitefield on June 7, originating from Whitefield instead of KR Puram, at the schedule departure time of Whitefield.

Train number 66560 Anantapur-KSR Bengaluru MEMU will be partially cancelled between Channasandra and KSR Bengaluru on June 7.

Fix garbage woes or face blacklisting, contractors told

Padmanabhanagar residents flag poor waste collection

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner KN Ramesh on Wednesday warned solid waste management contractors of strict action, including blacklisting, if garbage collection issues in Padmanabhanagar constituency are not resolved within a week.

The warning came during a review meeting chaired by Leader of the Opposition and Padmanabhanagar MLA R Ashoka at the Padmanabhanagar playground. The meeting was attended by civic officials, representatives of the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), contractors, waste collection auto drivers and residents.

Citizens from places such as Kumaraswamy Layout, Padmanabhanagar and Banashankari raised concerns over irregular door-to-door garbage collection. They also alleged that waste collection vehicles often fail to visit houses on schedule.

ACTION RECOMMENDED

- Resolve garbage collection issues in 1 week.
- Deploy adequate autos in all wards.
- Enforce daily door-to-door collection (6–9 am) with attendance proof of staff.
- Display driver and contractor contact details on vehicles.
- Use local volunteers for monitoring.
- Submit daily attendance to MLA office.
- Deduct payments for underperformance.

Responding to the complaints, Ashoka and Ramesh directed officials and contractors to ensure an adequate number of autos are assigned to each ward without exception.

They instructed that door-to-door collection be carried out daily between 6 am and 9 am and that collection staff record attendance as proof of service.

Ashoka also directed that the contact details of both the auto driver and the contractor be prominently displayed on every waste collection vehicle so that residents can directly report service lapses.

To improve monitoring, Ashoka announced that local volunteers would be engaged to track the movement of garbage collection vehicles. Daily attendance records of the autos will be submitted to the MLA's office for verification.

Officials were further instructed to deduct payments from contractors found operating fewer vehicles than stipulated under their contracts.

TRAFFIC FIX

Banashankari temple plans parking complex

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major relief to thousands of devotees visiting Sri Banashankari Temple, the Muzrai Department has decided to build a multi-level parking complex within the temple premises.

The decision comes amid mounting traffic snarls on roads surrounding the temple.

Thousands of devotees arrive daily in cars and two-wheelers, with numbers peaking on Tuesdays, Fridays and other auspicious days.

Due to the lack of a dedicated parking space, visitors are forced to park vehicles on roadsides and in narrow lanes around the shrine, leading to severe gridlocks.

Currently, only a handful of vehicles can be accommodated in the limited space in front of the temple's Dasoha Bhavan.

"Finding a spot here on a Friday is an absolute nightmare," said Ramesh Gowda, a resident of Banashankari 2nd Stage.

The Sri Banashankari Temple, where the Muzrai Department plans to construct the parking facility.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Plot size: 100x150 ft
Floors: 6–8
Cars per floor: 80
Total capacity: 600–700 cars
Type: Automated multi-level parking facility

"Devotees have no option but to block our residential gates and narrow by-lanes. It takes us 30 minutes just to exit our own street because of the haphazardly parked cars. A dedicated parking building will certainly help."

"I used to spend more time circling the temple looking for parking than actually standing in the darshan queue," noted local auto driver Sumanth R.

"Many times, senior citizens have to walk several hundred metres because cars are parked far away on Kanakapura Road. A facility inside the complex will save us both time and peace of mind."

The proposed parking facility will be built on a 100x150 foot plot owned by the temple.

Priority will be given to vehicles of devotees visiting the temple. Depending on space availability, provisions for other public vehicles may also be considered.

The temple is using its internal funds for the construction of the parking building, along with other development works such as tile laying.

"A proposal has been submitted to the Public Works Department (PWD) requesting a detailed estimate regarding the total projected cost for the multi-storey parking structure," said N Krishnappa, Executive Officer, Banashankari Temple.

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L K Atheeq

Atheeq named as CM's financial adviser

BENGALURU, DHNS: Retired IAS officer L K Atheeq has been appointed as Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's financial adviser.

Atheeq will also continue as chairperson of the Bengaluru Business Corridor.

Atheeq, who retired last year, served as additional chief secretary of the finance department in the previous Siddaramaiah government.

He oversaw the rollout of the Congress's five 'guarantee' schemes, making him directly aware of the financial challenges the state is facing. Atheeq's salary and allowances will be equivalent to the post of chief secretary, a government notification stated.

Haripriasad, Kamakanoor among 4 Cong candidates for Council polls

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Congress on Wednesday announced 4 candidates for the Legislative Council elections, including renomination of newly appointed state Congress president B K Hariprasad. The party has also fielded P V Mohan, an AICC secretary.

A native of Mangaluru, Mohan is also currently co-incharge of Kerala Congress unit.

The other two candidates are Thippanappa Kamakanoor of Kalaburagi, who previously served as MLC and Shivanna Malavalli, general secretary of KPCC and long-time Congress worker.

The election for 7 Council seats will be held on June 18, with MLAs casting their votes. The last date for filing nominations is June 8. With its current strength in Assembly, Congress is expected to comfortably win at least 4 seats.

Cyber Command Unit expands probe into online betting

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Cyber Command Unit (CCU) has expanded its probe after its recent coordinated crackdown on a massive network of betting websites, mobile applications, and about 8,750 fraudulent betting URLs.

According to officials, the CCU will execute the operation in multiple phases. As part of the first phase, the URLs were identified and blocked.

Under the second phase, the CCU has written to 127 web-hosting agencies to help monitor and block other gambling websites and newly emerging platforms.

Under the third phase, financial trails will be targeted by tracing proceeds of the crime and identifying kingpins and beneficiaries.

Specialised cyber teams recently conducted a coordinated online investigation and identified organised groups running illegal cricket betting platforms after receiving credible intelligence.

"These platforms were found to be operating through mirror domains, subdomains, and cloned URLs," the CCU said on Monday.

A case was registered, and investigations were launched.

According to the CCU, thousands of citizens have suffered heavy financial losses, data compromises, mental harassment, and debt-driven distress due to these illegal betting networks.

Dalit CM hope fades, Parameshwara is DCM again

Demand for top post remains bargaining tool for community

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

On Wednesday, G Parameshwara was sworn in as deputy chief minister for the second time.

But what has eluded him was of greater significance, that of the CM's chair remaining beyond the grasp of a Dalit leader.

A six-time MLA from Tumakuru district, he had been lobbying hard for the CM's post. He lost it to Shivakumar owing to the 2023 'secret' power-sharing pact between Kuruba strongman Siddaramaiah and the Vokkaliga leader.

Parameshwara, hours before taking oath, said, "It is true I wanted to be CM. But the high command decided I would be deputy CM. I consider it an opportunity to serve people".

A few days ago, he was candid at a public meeting: "I missed becoming CM thrice and Mallikarjun Kharge also failed. I was made deputy CM as a consolation."

Congress MLA G Parameshwara takes oath as deputy chief minister during the swearing-in ceremony of the new government, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

Every time Karnataka faces political uncertainty, the chorus for a Dalit CM grows louder. But the demand has largely remained a bargaining tool during leadership crises.

AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge remains one of the state's most experienced Dalit faces, though he lost the CM's post thrice — in 1999 to S M Krishna, in 2004 to N Dharam Singh and in 2013 to Siddaramaiah. Parameshwara missed the CM's post by a whisker in 2013 when, as KPCC chief, he suffered a shock defeat in Koratagere by 18,000 votes. There were murmurs of Siddaramaiah's role in turning away Kuruba votes. He was elected to Upper House in July 2014, but was inducted into the Cabinet as home minister only in October 2015. In 2018, he became deputy CM in JD(S)-Congress coalition government.

This time, Parameshwara was made DCM amid rumours of the party picking young faces as DCMs, This was opposed by senior leaders as it would signal a generational shift.

"Siddaramaiah had a big role in pushing for my inclusion and my elevation as deputy CM," Parameshwara said.

Swearing-in: Former MLC, invitees denied entry due to tight security

Police personnel cite overcrowding for regulating the entry

BENGALURU, DHNS

Several invitees, including a former MLC and pass holders, were denied entry into the Lok Bhavan for swearing-in ceremony on account of tight security measures in place.

Police personnel cited overcrowding caused by the presence of VVIPs, VIPs and supporters of political leaders at the venue as the reason for regulating the entry.

Aged persons and women carrying valid entry passes were also stopped near Capitol Hotel and along Lok Bhavan Road.

Some of them attempted to contact senior officials for assistance just to gain entry, but police personnel asked them to leave the area as entry was not being permitted.

A posse of police personnel deployed near Lok Bhavan during the swearing-in ceremony of the new chief minister, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

Speaking to *DH*, a former MLC expressed disappointment over the handling of the arrangements.

He said senior police officers should have been present at key entry points to monitor the situation.

"Constables who are not familiar with former legislators tend to send them back without verifying details. It becomes an embarrassing situation. I managed to enter Lok Bhavan after some time, but many invitees may have been turned away despite holding valid passes," he said.

Some former ministers and prominent businessmen were also seen leaving Lok Bhavan shortly after D K Shivakumar took oath as chief minister, fearing heavy traffic congestion around the venue.

Meanwhile, a brief drama unfolded near the venue when a group of supporters of Hungund MLA Vijayanand Kashappanavar raised slogans demanding a ministerial berth for their leader.

Police intervened and dispersed the supporters from the area to prevent any untoward incidents.

More than 3,000 police personnel on duty

More than 3,000 police personnel, including senior officers from the city police, traffic police, Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) and City Armed Reserve (CAR), were deployed to manage the crowd and security arrangements around Lok Bhavan and Vidhana Soudha.

City police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said that the entire city police force was deployed to handle security and crowd management around Lok Bhavan, Vidhana Soudha, hotels accommodating dignitaries, the airport and routes used for VIP movements.

A senior police officer said that we had installed barricades at multiple points around the venue to facilitate smooth movement of invitees and the public. Around 20,000 people gathered outside the venue, while nearly 3,000 invitees were accommodated inside.

The police said elaborate safety measures were put in place to prevent overcrowding at any single location. Officers regulated pedestrian movement, maintained adequate spacing among attendees and ensured that large groups did not congregate at one point, helping avoid congestion and ensuring smooth conduct of the event. Nine LED screens were installed around the venue, the officer added.

SC Collegium recommends 6 advocates as K'taka HC judges

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the appointment of seven advocates as judges of the high courts of Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

The collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, also recommended the elevation of two additional judges as permanent judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The collegium, in its meeting held on June 2, recommended appointment of six advocates as judges of the Karnataka High Court.

The recommended names are Raghavendra Seetharam Srivatsa, Hema Kulkarni, Subramanya Rangarao, Thadagavadi Prakash Vivekananda, Bakkeswara Pramod, and Hombe Gowda Shanthi Bhushan.

The collegium also approved the appointment of advocate Amit Lahoti as a judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

In a separate resolution, the collegium recommended the appointment of Additional Judges Justice Harmeet Singh Grewal and Justice Deepinder Singh Nalwa as permanent judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Lorry runs over farmer couple in Anekal, man dies, wife critical

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 40-year-old farmer was killed and his wife suffered critical injuries after a lorry ran over them on the Anekal Chandapura Road on Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased has been identified as Manjunath Reddy, a resident of Harohalli near Huskur in Anekal taluk. His 36-year-old wife, Pratibha, remains under treatment in hospital.

Police said the couple had travelled to Anekal town on their motorcycle for treatment.

While riding, they noticed a speeding lorry approaching from behind. In an attempt to move out of its path, Manjunath steered the motorcycle towards the left side of the road to park.

Roadside crowded

However, the roadside was crowded with stationary two-wheelers.

As Manjunath turned, the motorcycle struck one of the parked bikes, causing the couple to lose balance and fall into the path of the oncoming lorry.

The motorcycle became wedged between the parked vehicles and the moving truck, and the couple were run over.

Following the impact, local shopkeepers and passersby rushed to the rescue.

However, Manjunath succumbed to his injuries while being taken to hospital. Pratibha, who is in a critical condition, was shifted to a private hospital in Bommasandra.

Anekal police arrived at the spot shortly after the incident, conducted a preliminary investigation, and cleared the congestion caused by the accident.

Police have registered a case, seized the lorry, and taken the driver into custody.

DKS supporters make a beeline to Bengaluru

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Supporters of Congress leader D K Shivakumar had gathered outside the Vidhana Soudha, ahead of his swearing-in ceremony as chief minister, which took place on Wednesday evening.

While some made it to Bengaluru on their own accord, a majority were brought in using sponsored metro tickets and contract carriages arranged by Congress workers.

By noon, people from across the state, including Sira, Ramanagara, Kanakapura, Shivamogga, Kunigal, Haveri and Belagavi, had started arriving in the city. A majority of the crowd used public transport to get to Dr Ambedkar Veedhi. The metro stations, with heightened security, remained calm. However, things rapidly changed at around 3.30 pm. Herds of supporters began arriving at the Vidhana Soudha metro station—a majority with tickets sponsored by Congress workers. Two printed tickets worth Rs 50 were provided to all. Party workers had also organised buses from Laggere.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) deployed additional staff at the particular station, increased security and halted escalator operations to avoid any accidents. However, the queues grew longer during the oath ceremony — with people unable to either enter or exit the station.

Lata, a 62-year-old from Sira, set off from her hometown in the wee hours of Wednesday with her sister Radha to make sure she would make it to Vidhana Soudha in time. "Be it Siddaramaiah or Shivakumar, I support both of them and am grateful to both. It is because of their help that I was able to take a bus and make it here today. Congress is the voice of the poor people, and for that I'm grateful. We just want to catch a glimpse of him," she told *DH*.

Congress supporters arrived at the Vidhana Soudha metro station on Wednesday, a majority with tickets sponsored by the party workers. DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

Fans and supporters in front of Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Farmers, who had arrived from different parts of the state, shared the same sentiment.

Ranganath, a farmer from Kanakapura, made his way to the Vidhana Soudha with a broken leg. "Shivakumar has done a lot for us. He has selflessly helped the people in his constituency. All of us have prayed for him, visited multiple temples to make sure he would one day become the CM of Karnataka. Coming here to show my support is the least I could do," he said.

Supporters from Kanakapura and Ramanagara shared similar stories — of the CM helping with land issues and other grievances.

The crowd also dressed up for the occasion. Some tried to replicate Shivakumar's style with white kurtas and luxury branded scarves, and others donned T-shirts with the chief minister's face and slogans printed on them.

Ridership up

On Wednesday, the BMRCL issued around 14,000 single-journey paper tickets that had been purchased in bulk in advance. While boarding details for the day will be available only on Thursday, a senior BMRCL official said ridership would likely exceed the average daily footfall of 9.1-9.4 lakh considerably.

Bengaluru added just 26.44 km to its metro network in the last three years. D K Shivakumar has promised to expand it by another 41 km by December. DH FILE PHOTO

As CM, can DKS elevate his metro record from modest to phenomenal?

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

D K Shivakumar's elevation to the top office in Karnataka may help expedite Namma Metro, a key public transport project seen as critical to solving Bengaluru's traffic problem, well-placed sources said.

As Bengaluru development minister in the previous government, Shivakumar oversaw the metro project and took key decisions, such as building double-decker viaducts on all future lines.

He was also instrumental in releasing additional funds to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to repay loans and meet other expenses, the sources noted.

However, his record in metro expansion is rather modest. Bengaluru added just 26.44 km to its metro network in the last three years, or about 9 km per year.

A key test for Shivakumar will be whether the metro network expands by 41.01 km by December 2026, a deadline he himself set last year. This includes opening the Pink Line (21.26 km) and the Blue Line's Phase 2A (19.75 km).

While Shivakumar could help expedite both lines through smoother inter-agency coordination and quicker decision-making, he is also expected to secure faster approvals from the Centre for Phases 3 and 3A.

"His elevation will help. Unlike Siddaramaiah, he has had a good rapport with the Centre and often visited union ministers to push things forward. So, as chief minister, he should be able to secure clearances faster if anything is being held up," one of the sources told *DH*.

Phase 3 will consist of two corridors — a 32.3-km line from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and a 12.15-km line from Hosahalli to Kadabagere along Magadi Road.

Groundwork on Phase 3 has yet to begin despite the Centre approving it in June 2024.

In January, the BMRCL floated the first tenders covering 18.581 km of the phase. Tenders for the remaining packages have yet to be called, apparently due to concerns over the double-decker component, which will feature the metro line running above a road flyover.

Corridor 1 will include a 28.486-km double-decker and Corridor 2 a 8.635-km double-decker.

"Since the double-decker is his baby, Shivakumar can push to get the necessary clearances. Even if someone else becomes the Bengaluru development minister, Shivakumar will have the final say," the source explained.

As Bengaluru development minister, Shivakumar ensured the BMRCL received the necessary funds despite the strain caused by the guarantee schemes.

"In 2025-26, we received an additional Rs 1,250 crore to meet the revised cost of Phase 2. We also received Rs 810 crore as Cash Shadow Support to repay the loans," the source said.

The support helped the BMRCL after it rolled back the 5% fare hike that was due in February.

A second source said Shivakumar also needed to pursue the 36.59-km Sarjapur-Hebbal line under Phase 3A, whose alignment would be similar to be the tunnel road project, his brainchild.

However, the first source believes Shivakumar's elevation may not address the structural and legacy problems within the BMRCL.

Laddus for every house, garlands of apples, silver coins for chief minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

People in Nelamangala celebrated Shivakumar's elevation in a big way. To share the joy, local Congress MLA N Srinivas has ordered for nearly 10 lakh laddus, so that every single house in his constituency gets a sweet box.

The festive mood is visible everywhere in Nelamangala. Supporters are putting up big cutouts, bursting crackers and decorating streets.

Speaking to TV reporters, Srinivas said between 250 and 300 professional cooks have been hired to make the traditional sweets. The plan is to give a sweet box weighing around 750 gram to every family in Nelamangala Assembly segment.

"Shivakumar becoming the Chief Minister has brought great joy to people. To celebrate this, they are preparing sweet boxes for around 85,000 to 90,000 families across all villages and towns here. No house will be left out," he said.

The distribution of these sweets is highly organised. A large group of Congress workers and local leaders have been given specific areas to deliver the boxes.

The 750-gram sweet boxes will be delivered door-to-door for 3 days on the trot starting Thursday morning.

The CM's supporters in Bengaluru Rural district have turned this political event into a festival.

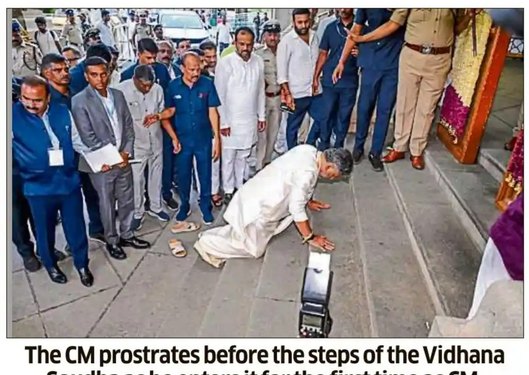
The MLA said that while the official ceremony in the city will be a formal event, the celebrations in villages will continue till the weekend.

Alongside the massive sweet-making drive, local supporters have commissioned custom-made ceremonial garlands to honour their leader. These include uniquely crafted garlands of silver coins, decorated with party colours and featuring portraits of Shivakumar and other local Congress leaders.

Huge garlands are being prepared from thousands of apples and vibrant flowers, using cranes. They will be offered to the CM, when he comes visiting.

Cooks in Nelamangala prepare laddus on Wednesday, ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of D K Shivakumar.

D K Shivakumar pays floral tributes to the statue of Dr B R Ambedkar at Vidhana Soudha after being sworn.



The CM prostrates before the steps of the Vidhana Soudha as he enters it for the first time as CM.

Shivakumar waves to the crowds at the swearing-in ceremony. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V & B K JANARDHAN

Fans gather in their thousands to watch their leader take oath as chief minister.

GBA polls first major test for CM

INFRA BOOST IN FOCUS: As B'luru development minister, he was at centre of key decisions

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

With Shivakumar assuming charge as CM, attention is turning to the long-delayed elections to the newly constituted Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which are expected to be among the first major political tests of his leadership.

As Bengaluru development minister over the last three years, Shivakumar was at the centre of several key decisions, including restructuring of BBMP, announcement of 40-km tunnel road projects, revival of peripheral ring road (PRR) project and revoking ban on advertisement hoardings.

Political observers say conducting elections to 5 newly-carved municipal corporations will now be an important task for him. Reason: Supreme Court has directed the government to hold elections before September-end.

What's more, the election results will serve as a report card to his 3 years as Bengaluru development minister.

Since September 2020, Bengaluru municipal elections have remained pending with successive governments introducing administrative changes amid lack of support from city's legislators. While the government had a mandate to hold the elections by June-end, uncertainty surrounding the state's leadership transition had fuelled concerns among aspiring candidates that polls could be delayed further.

With the leadership issue now settled, prospective councillors and party workers across Bengaluru are expressing hope that the election process will gather momentum.

Congress leader and former councillor Abdul Wajeed strongly believes that the elections will not be further delayed. "Under Shivakumar as CM, Bengaluru may get a bounty of new guarantees and schemes," he said, adding that the elections are important to ensure basic amenities are delivered to common citizens.

"Ministers and MLAs have their own tasks and attending to civic issues becomes difficult. Corporators are generally available when citizens raise complaints on water shortage, flooding, non-functional streetlights, garbage collection, etc," he said.

While some former councillors are skeptical about the elections being conducted owing to ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, others insist the government must uphold constitutional mandate.

> When Assembly and Lok Sabha elections are held on time, why not corporation elections?
>
> **PADMANABH REDDY**
> Former councillor of BJP

Padmanabh Reddy, former councillor of BJP, said the government had an obligation of conducting the civic body elections.

"As per the Act, the corporation elections should not be delayed beyond six months. But delay is now stretching close to six years. When Assembly and Lok Sabha elections are held on time, why are corporation elections not taken seriously?," he said. He said key processes like delimitation and reservation of wards must be vested with the state election commission to ensure governments don't misuse these powers.

Calls on former prime minister H D Deve Gowda and takes his blessings.

He is blessed by his mother Gowramma at her house at Doddalahalli in Kanakapura.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar bows to the crowds to thank them after taking oath as chief minister at the Lok Bhavan on Wednesday. PTI

Priyank Kharge takes oath as minister.

Caste composition of Cabinet

Lingayats	3
Vokkaligas	3
Dalits	3
Kurubas	2
Muslim	1
Christian	1
ST	1

Dist-wise break-up

Bengaluru Urban	4
Kalaburagi	2
Bengaluru South	1
Tumakuru	1
Vijayapura	1
Bidar	1
Dakshina Kannada	1
Belagavi	1
Bengaluru Rural	1
Mysuru	1

Davangere fallout?: Zameer misses first Cabinet bus

'Sidelined' after audio clip; Khader makes the cut

BENGALURU, DHNS

The first bus ferrying 14 Congress lawmakers has left, and Chamarajpet MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan, touted as the party's Muslim face, missed his seat.

Zameer, who once drove a bus full of 42 legislators to a resort during a political crisis in 2006, must sit out for now.

By contrast, three years ago, when Congress came to power and Siddaramaiah became CM, Zameer was one among 8 lawmakers to be sworn in. He had pipped other Muslim lawmakers to make it to the first list of inductees.

Zameer Ahmed

D K Suresh met Zameer Ahmed on Tuesday and is believed to have conveyed the decision that he will have to wait.

Zameer, a businessman by profession with stakes in bus operator National Travels, is widely believed to have paid the price following allegations that he indulged in anti-party activities during Davangere South bypoll. Zameer has repeatedly denied them.

On Tuesday, Shivakumar's brother D K Suresh paid a visit to Zameer and held talks. It is now believed that Suresh conveyed the party's decision that Zameer will have to wait for his turn to become minister.

For now, Shivakumar will start his innings as the CM with U T Khader as the lone Muslim face in the Cabinet. Khader was Assembly Speaker.

Zameer joined Congress in 2018 from the JD(S) where he was expelled in 2016 for allegedly cross-voting during a Rajya Sabha election. Despite souring his ties with H D Kumaraswamy, Zameer became a minister in the JD(S)-Congress coalition government. Over time, Zameer grew close to Siddaramaiah.

On Monday, an audio clip went viral in which Zameer is purportedly heard plotting against Congress during the Davangere South bypoll. Zameer described the clip as "fake". The clip was released as if it was aimed at scuttling Zameer's chances of becoming a minister in the new government.

KNOW YOUR MINISTERS

Name: G Parameshwara
Age: 74, **Caste:** SC (Right)
Education: PhD (plant pathology, University of Adelaide).

Constituency: Koratagere
Political experience: 6-time MLA, deputy CM in JD(S)-Cong govt, minister in S M Krishna government, KPCC chief

Name: Kambadahalli Hanumappa Muniyappa
Age: 78, **Caste:** SC (Left)
Education: Law graduate (1986), **Constituency:** Devanahalli

Political experience: 7-time Kolar MP from 1991 to 2019, this is Muniyappa's first stint as MLA. Has served as union minister.

Name: K J George
Age: 76, **Community:** Christian, **Education:** PU, **Constituency:** Sarvagnanagar

Political experience: 6-time MLA. His business interests include real estate. He first entered Assembly in 1985. He has been urban development, home & B'luru devpt minister.

Name: M B Patil
Age: 61, **Caste:** Lingayat, **Education:** BE (civil)
Constituency: Bableshwar

Political experience: 6-time MLA, Patil first entered Assembly in 1989 at the age of 25 from the erstwhile Tikota constituency. He was elected to LS from Bijapur in 1998.

Name: Ramalinga Reddy
Age: 72, **Caste:** Reddy-Vokkaliga, **Education:** BSc, **Constituency:** BTM Layout

Political experience: Eight-time MLA, Reddy is a veteran Congressman who became councillor in 1983. He represented Jayanagar and BTM Layout in Assembly 4 times each.

Name: Satish Jarkiholi
Age: 63, **Caste:** Valmiki (ST)
Education: PU
Constituency: Yemkanmaradi

Political experience: Haiis from a political powerhouse, Satish has brothers Balachandra & Ramesh, elected from BJP. He is a sugar baron in Belagavi.

Name: Krishna Byre Gowda
Age: 53, **Caste:** Vokkaliga
Education: MA in int'l affairs from American University, Washington DC

Constituency: Byatarayanapura
Political experience: A 6-time MLA. He has a grip on public finances. Has been minister earlier.

Name: Priyank Kharge
Age: 47, **Caste:** SC (Right)
Education: PU and certified professional in computer arts and animation.

Constituency: Chittapur
Political experience: Priyank is a three-time MLA. A practising Buddhist, Priyank took on BJP over corruption.

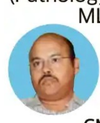
Name: U T Khader
Age: 50, **Community:** Muslim
Education: LLB from SDM Law College, **Constituency:** Mangalore

Political experience: A 5-time MLA, Khader was elected Speaker in May 2023. A Beary Muslim, Khader served earlier as minister in many portfolios

Name: Eshwar Khandre
Age: 64, **Caste:** Veerashaiva-Lingayat (Banajiga), **Education:** BE, **Constituency:** Bhalki

Political experience: 4-time MLA, Eshwar is son of educationist, ex-minister and Lingayat leader, Bhimanna Khandre. He heads Veerashaiva Mahasabha.

Name: Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah, **Age:** 45, **Caste:** Kuruba, **Education:** MBBS, MD (Pathology), **Constituency:** MLC



Political experience: A 2-time lawmaker, Yathindra is son of former CM Siddaramaiah. Yathindra first became MLA from Varuna in 2018.

Name: Suresha B S (Byrati)
Age: 54, **Caste:** Kuruba
Education: Pre-university
Constituency: Hebbal

Political experience: A 2-time MLA, Suresh first became MLC in 2012. He resigned to contest the 2018 Assembly polls. He has declared assets of Rs 618 cr.

Name: Dr Sharan Prakash Patil
Age: 58, **Caste:** Lingayat (Adi Banajiga), **Education:** MBBS, MD (Skin & VD), **Constituency:** Sedam

Political experience: Patil is a 4-time MLA, was minister for medical education in first and second Siddaramaiah govts.

DKS' trusted babus move to CMO

Tushar Giri Nath

Rajendra Cholan

BENGALURU, DHNS: In one of the first major bureaucratic reshuffles after D K Shivakumar assumed office, two IAS officers who had worked closely with him during his tenure as the Bengaluru development minister in the erstwhile government have been moved to key positions in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

In an order on Wednesday evening, the government posted IAS officers Tushar Giri Nath and Rajendra Cholan P as additional chief secretary (ACS) and secretary to the chief minister, respectively.

The appointments are significant as both officers were widely regarded as among Shivakumar's most-trusted bureaucratic aides in the past three years when he was Bengaluru development minister.

Tushar Giri Nath, first as chief commissioner of BBMP and later as additional chief secretary in urban development department (UDD), worked on key decisions like restructuring of the civic body. He also cleared many Bengaluru-centric projects.

Rajendra Cholan had coordinated several of the policy and administrative matters from the office of the DCM.

The government has also allowed Giri Nath to continue holding concurrent charge of UDD. Cholan will hold additional charge as managing director of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited.

Governor objects to taking oath in wrong format

BENGALURU, DHNS: Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot objected to Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara and Minister M B Patil taking oath in the name of Dr B R Ambedkar and 12th-century social reformer Basavanna.

Incidentally, even as Shivakumar took oath in the name of Veera Gangadhara Ajjayya, the governor did not tell him anything. Parameshwara, who took oath after Shivakumar, added that he takes the oath in the name of Dr B R Ambedkar.

Thaawarchand Gehlot

This did not go down well with the governor, who conveyed it to Parameshwara on stage. "Nahi, galat padha aapne" (No, you read it wrong).

Following this, the governor conveyed to chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh through an official that only what is written should be read out.

Minutes later, M B Patil took the oath in the name of Basavanna, Basavadi Sharanas and Siddeshwara Swami. At this point, the governor conveyed his displeasure again. Then, the chief secretary announced that ministers have to read what is written in the papers given to them. When Gehlot told Patil that he should have stuck to what is written, the minister answered back that Basavanna is a cultural icon of the state.

Minister Eshwar Khandre took oath in the name of God and Channabasava Pattaddevaru. K H Muniyappa, K J George, Byrathi Suresh and so on took the oath in the name of God.

Wednesday's incident is a continuation of the friction between the Congress government and governor.

In January, during the customary Governor's address at the start of the first legislature session of the year, Gehlot refused to read the entire speech prepared by the Cabinet.

Yathindra: Reluctant politician to Siddaramaiah's heir apparent

Sujay B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Politics was not a natural choice for Dr Yathindra. As Siddaramaiah became chief minister in 2013, his elder son Rakesh took care of his father's Varuna constituency, and was widely seen as his political successor.

In contrast, the shy and reticent Yathindra was engrossed in medical profession. Rakesh's untimely demise in 2016 created a political vacuum. It's then that Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathy is said to have facilitated Yathindra's political entry. Cut to present: He is one amongst 13 ministers to be sworn in on Wednesday

In 2018, Yathindra won as Congress candidate from Varuna. The victory came at a cost though, as Siddaramaiah—having vacated his pocket borough for his son—lost in Chamundeshwari and entered Assembly, after a hard-fought victory in Badami.

Dr Yathindra

In 2023, Yathindra decided to "sacrifice" his seat for his father. A senior journalist said it was common to see veteran politicians making way for their children, but rare for the reverse to happen.

After Siddaramaiah became CM for a second time in 2023, Yathindra became an MLC.

Amid escalating power struggle between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, Yathindra frequently made public claims that his father would complete a 5-year term. These claims were interpreted as political impertinence, and did not go down well with Shivakumar loyalists.

There have been claims of alleged "interference" by him in administrative matters like job appointments and transfers. Of late, he reportedly played a key role in Congress' victory in Bagalkot bypoll this year.

Born on June 27, 1980, Yathindra graduated with masters degree in pathology from Jawaharlal Nehru College in Belagavi in 2009. He is a bachelor.

Sources close to Siddaramaiah say he is an avid reader, with strong conviction in ideological tenets of Kuvempu, Basavanna and Dr B R Ambedkar.

"He reads literature in both Kannada and English. His areas of interest include Vachanas and Upanishads. He picked it up from his father," a bureaucrat who has worked with the ex-CM said.

If Yathindra gets backward classes welfare department as speculated, it may help him craft his career in the mould of Siddaramaiah, considered a champion of Ahinda - Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes, SCs/STs - despite some questionable decisions in second term.

REAPING REALTY BOOM

DKS richer than all Hindi heartland CMs combined

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

With declared assets of Rs 1,413 crore, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar will be India's richest chief minister, beating combined wealth of 10 CMs of Hindi heartland states, according to the latest available election affidavits.

Shivakumar's total net worth, last declared in his 2023 election affidavit, would have increased by now, driven by appreciation of lands—agricultural, residential and commercial—that he owns. This includes lands in Bengaluru South district. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu comes second with total assets worth Rs 931 crore.

Tamil Nadu's Joseph Vijay has assets worth Rs 648 crore. In Telangana, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has declared assets worth Rs 30 crore. Kerala's V D Satheesan is comparably the poorest of south Indian chief ministers with assets of Rs 6.6 crore.

According to an analysis of affidavits by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), the total worth of 10 chief ministers in the Hindi heartland -- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi - is Rs 106.75 crore. This means that Shivakumar is 13 times richer than chief ministers from these 10 states.

In May last, the government renamed Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South, a plan Shivakumar pushed through as Deputy Chief Minister.

Shivakumar, who represents Kanakapura Assembly segment in the district, assured his constituents that their land prices will go up significantly after renaming.

He has agricultural property, over 71 acres of land valued at Rs 10.37 crore, and other assets in the district, according to his affidavits. The CM's brother, D K Suresh, has declared agricultural property, over 93.97 acres worth Rs 8.35 crore, and other assets in district.

Addressing farmers from idadi recently, Shivakumar asked them a rhetorical question: "After Ramanagara became Bengaluru South, can you tell me how much the value of your lands increased?"

Some farmers shouted back: "It has doubled and tripled."

DECLARED ASSEST OF CMs

(in Rs crore)

South Indian CMs		Hindi Heartland CMs	
D K Shivakumar	**1,413**	**Dr Mohan Yadav**	**42**
N Chandrababu Naidu	931	Hemant Soren	25
Joseph Vijay	**648**	**Samrat Choudhary**	**11**
Revanth Reddy	30	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu	7.81
VD Satheesan	**6.6**	**Nayab Singh Saini**	**5.8**

Ramaiah Group and University at Albany redefine higher education with RISM

Photo Caption: (Left to right) Fardin Sanai, Vice President for University Advancement & Executive Director of The University at Albany Foundation, Prof Gurucharan, Executive Director and Chief Strategic Officer, Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management, Carol H Kim, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost's Office, Executive Council, Havidán Rodríguez, President, Executive Council, Dr MR Jayaram, Chancellor, RISM, Thenkurussi (Kesh) Kesavadas, Vice President for Research & Economic Development, Executive Council, Balakrishnan (Prabha) Prabhakaran, AI Plus Institute Director; Empire Innovation Professor

At a curtain-raiser for Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM) in Bengaluru, global academic and industry leaders outlined a vision for the future of higher education—one driven by AI, interdisciplinary learning, translational research and deep industry collaboration, across three panel discussions.

As India preps for a future shaped by artificial intelligence, rapid technological disruption and evolving workforce demands, Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM), in collaboration with the University at Albany, State University of New York, has unveiled an ambitious vision to redefine higher education, designed to position RISM as a future-facing, globally connected, and industry-integrated institution.

At the event, organised by Gokula Education Foundation (Medical), leaders from academia, industry, research and technology came together to discuss how universities can bridge the gap between learning, innovation and real-world impact. Through a series of panel discussions and a fireside conversation, speakers explored how engineering education, AI and translational research can be reimagined to prepare students for a rapidly changing world.

Universities must rethink purpose in an AI-driven world

Delivering the keynote address, Prof Gurucharan, Executive Director and Chief Strategic Officer, urged universities to rethink their purpose and prepare students for a world increasingly shaped by AI.

"Universities face fundamental questions about purpose," he said, stressing that institutions must ensure AI amplifies learning rather than replaces it.

He argued that future academic programmes must combine disciplinary depth with interdisciplinary problem-solving, noting that real-world challenges rarely fit within traditional departmental boundaries. Future engineers, he said, must become systems integrators capable of working across domains.

Prof Gurucharan also highlighted the need to strengthen the role of higher education in innovation through translational research and industry partnerships that can bridge the gap between discovery and deployment.

Describing AI as an "epistemic challenge", he noted that it changes not only what people do but also how they think and access information. Universities, therefore, must focus on uniquely human capabilities such as creative reasoning, judgement, ethics and curiosity.

Fireside Chat: Building a new model for higher education

A key highlight of the event was a fireside conversation between Dr MR Jayaram, Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation (Medical) and Chancellor of RISM, and Dr Havidán Rodríguez, President of the University at Albany, moderated by senior journalist Stanley Carvalho.

Dr Jayaram identified the disconnect between industry and academia as one of the biggest challenges facing higher education in India.

"The gap between industry and knowledge was the biggest challenge I found in institutions," he said. "Industries have made a very big impact in India, but unfortunately institutions were not yet at that level."

He emphasised that RISM's partnership with the University at Albany was built with the goal of creating a globally relevant institution that prioritises deep science and translational research.

"RISM will be geared up to move from publications to best research, deep science and translational research that aims to solve real-world problems through innovation, products and processes," he said.

Dr Rodríguez echoed this vision, describing the collaboration as a co-created model for the future rather than a replication of an existing institution.

"We are not just creating or exporting another brand; we are creating together a new model to transform our societies," he said.

Addressing concerns about AI, he added: "AI will never replace us as humans. It will not replace judgement, creativity, critical thinking, ethics or teamwork."

The discussion reinforced a shared belief that future graduates across engineering, medicine, management and applied sciences must combine disciplinary expertise with interdisciplinary learning, international exposure and industry-linked experiences.

The vision for 2035

The event also introduced RISM's Vision 2035, a roadmap centred on innovation, research and societal impact.

"In 2035, people will recognise RISM as the university that prepared a generation not merely for jobs, but for shaping the future," Dr. Jayaram said.

Panel 1: The future of engineering education

Moderated by Prof Shivakumar Sastry, Director, Faculty Development and Training, RISM, the panel featured Prof Carol Kim, Mr Kamal Bali, Prof Kavitha Chandra and Prof Swami Manohar, who discussed how engineering education must evolve to meet the demands of an increasingly interdisciplinary and technology-driven world.

The panellists argued that engineering education must move beyond departmental silos and traditional curricula to address complex challenges such as electrification, AI-driven automation, climate change and socio-technical systems.

Recommendations included embedding systems thinking, AI and digital engineering across disciplines, strengthening industry-linked projects and capstones, and enabling students to take ownership of solving real-world problems.

Prof Swami Manohar suggested that students identify challenges within their campuses and communities and work with faculty mentors to develop solutions.

The panel's key takeaway: engineering education must evolve from siloed discipline-based training to interdisciplinary, systems-focused and industry-partnered learning centred on student agency and lifelong adaptability.

Panel 2: How AI can be a creative disruptor in higher education

The second panel, AI in Higher Education — The Creative Disruptor, examined how generative AI is transforming learning, assessment and teaching .Moderated by Prof C Pandu Rangan, RISM, the panel brought together Prof Balakrishnan Prabhakaran, Mr Sanjay Jain and Dr Qutub Saifee to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming learning, assessment and the future role of educators and students.

Speakers agreed that coding is increasingly becoming commoditised and that future graduates will be differentiated by critical thinking, empathy, creativity and collaboration.

The panel stressed the importance of strong foundations in mathematics and physics, alongside the ability to conceptualise problems and work effectively with AI tools.

Participants also argued that institutions should shift assessment models away from final outputs and towards evaluating the learning process, including how students navigate and critique AI-generated responses.

Google announced plans to support AI adoption among Indian educators through faculty training initiatives.

The key takeaway from the session was that AI has commoditised execution, making critical thinking, foundational knowledge and human judgement more valuable than ever.

Panel 3: Converting research into real-world impact

The final panel, Translational Research and Industry Partnerships, focused on how universities can convert research into real-world impact.

Panellists included Prof Kesh Kesavadas, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, University at Albany; Mr Jeyamani Doss, CTO, GE Vernova; and Mr Prashant Doreswamy, President and CEO, Aumovio. The session was moderated by Mr Venkatesh Valluri, Vice Chairman, Ramaiah Academy Foundation

Discussions highlighted the growing need for multidisciplinary systems engineers who can work across domains while leveraging AI and industry partnerships to solve societal challenges. Examples included innovations in food logistics, software-defined vehicles and semiconductor research, illustrating how collaboration between academia and industry can accelerate product development and create meaningful impact. Panellists also cited industry collaborations that reduced electronic brake development time and costs by 50%, while noting that AI could increase engineers' innovation time from 20% to 60% by automating routine tasks and enabling greater focus on problem-solving and innovation.

The consensus was clear on how future universities must prioritise translational research, product development and scalable innovation rather than focusing solely on patents and publications.

Students must not prepare just for jobs, but to shape the future, too

The consensus was clear: future universities must prioritise translational research, product development and scalable innovation rather than focusing solely on patents and publications.

Summarising the day's discussions, Prof BN Raghunandan, former Dean of Aerospace Engineering at IISc and Chairman of the RISM Task Force, outlined five priorities for the future: systems thinking, social and teamwork skills, multidisciplinary engineering education, continuous faculty development and translational research.

His concluding message said that students must master fundamentals, collaborate across disciplines and spend more time innovating; using AI not as a substitute for thinking, but as a catalyst for it.

Curated by DH Brandspot

High Court quashes ED attachment in MUDA alternative sites allotment

Reserves liberty for fresh trial under PMLA if circumstances warrant

IN THE HIGH COURT

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka quashed the provisional attachment order passed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the case of alternative sites allotted by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in favour of a 70-year-old woman.

Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav, however, has reserved liberty to the ED to initiate fresh proceedings, if circumstances under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) warrant such proceedings.

The petitioner Jayamma, from KG Koppal, Mysuru, her daughter had claimed right over a certain extent land in Malalavadi village by inheritance. Since the land was utilised for formation of Jayanagar Layout without acquisition, MUDA allotted alternative sites in lieu of compensation and executed the sale deeds in June 2024. The petitioner had moved the high court in a separate proceeding seeking a direction to the MUDA for affecting transfer of khatha with respect to the sites transferred.

In the meantime, pursuant to the Lokayukta investigation pertaining to 14 alternative sites allotted to former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathy Siddaramaiah, ED launched a probe under the provisions of PMLA. Though the petitioner was not an accused in the ongoing investigation, the ED attached the sites claiming that it constituted proceeds of crime.

The petitioner woman contended that there is neither application of mind nor recording of the essential findings as contemplated under the second proviso to section 5(1) of PMLA before passing the attachment order. The reasons to believe, in the order pertaining to the petitioner woman, was recorded in an "omnibus and cyclostyled manner", it was submitted.

On the other hand, the ED submitted that the order of the adjudicating authority has already been passed confirming the attachment and the appellate remedy is open to the petitioner. It was further submitted that except in the case against the former Chief Minister and others, the Lokayukta probe against others was still under progress.

The court noted that the second proviso to section 5 confers power to attach if non-attachment of property is likely to frustrate proceedings under the PMLA and in the case at hand, there is no such recording.

The court pointed out that the question of transferring the proceeds of crime and layering such proceeds would not arise since the petitioner's request for khata transfer is still pending.

"Any immovable property in the absence of mutation entries (katha) cannot be dealt with by way of transfer. Accordingly, the apprehension of the competent officer that if provisional attachment is not resorted to, there would be a likelihood of frustrating the proceedings is not based on any objective material having a nexus with frustration of proceedings under the PMLA," Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav said.

Realtor alleges blackmail by live-in partner

BENGALURU, DHNS: A real estate agent has filed a police complaint accusing his live-in partner of blackmailing him for years.

Raviraj AS, 45, told the police he met the woman, identified as Soumya S, through Facebook seven to eight years ago. They became close after she reportedly told him her divorce proceedings were underway and promised to marry him once these were completed.

Raviraj, who had separated from his wife of 18 years, started living with Soumya. However, Raviraj said they fought frequently over money and he used to lend her cash.

Until May 22, she had taken over Rs 1.50 crore in cash and 500 grams of gold from him. Soumya rented a 2BHK house in October 2025, naming him as her husband in the rental agreement. Raviraj later learnt that Soumya was married to a man named Ambarish.

After he confronted her, Ambarish began threatening him. They also threatened Raviraj that if he did not pay up, they would leak his sensitive photographs on the internet and send them to his family. Based on Raviraj's complaint, police have registered a case under Section 66C (identity theft) of the Information Technology Act and BNS sections 308 (extortion) and 351(2) (criminal intimidation). Investigations are underway.

Skies open up in Halaburga village of Bhalki taluk in Bidar district on Wednesday. (Below) Rains turn a road into cesspool in Ballari. DH PHOTOS

Parts of Malnad, N-K dists see rains, overcast skies

BENGALURU, DHNS

Even as the southwest monsoon is expected to set in over Kerala on Thursday (June 4), parts of Malnad, including Kodagu, witnessed monsoon conditions, marked by overcast skies and intermittent showers on Wednesday.

Many parts of Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru districts experienced monsoon-like weather on Wednesday. Showers, coupled with gusty winds, brought down several trees and uprooted electricity poles, affecting power supply at Nelyahudikeri and surrounding areas.

Chikkamagaluru city and parts of the district, including Mudigere, Kottigehara, Kalasa, Balehonnur, Alduru, Sringeri and NR Pura witnessed overcast skies and intermittent rain. Kalasa recorded 34 mm of rain while Chikkamagaluru and Mudigere received 18 mm of rain.

Up north, several parts of Dharwad, Bagalkot, Vijayapura and Gadag districts continued to see thundershowers. Copious rains in the region have spurred agricultural activity. Badami town and surrounding areas experienced a downpour for close to one hours. The shila (rock-cut) mantapa at the entrance of the 6th century Mahakuteshwara temple suffered minor damage after a massive eucalyptus tree came crashing on it.

The ASI will take up the repair of pillared arch mantap at the entrance of Mahakuteshwara temple. The 6th century Chalukyan monument will be conserved, Ramesh Mulimani, superintendent, ASI (Dharwad zone) told *DH*.

Heavy rains, accompanied by thunder and lightning and strong winds, continued to lash Ballari city for the second consecutive day on Wednesday. The thunderstorm has resulted in tree fall, uprooting of electricity poles and waterlogging across the city. Gusty winds that swept across the city on Tuesday evening have hit power supply in the city.

Boy killed

An eight-year-old boy and two oxen were killed in rain-related incidents in north Karnataka.

Ali Momin, son of Arshad Ali Momin, a resident of Momin Mohalla at Hulsoor in Bidar district was electrocuted after he came in contact with a rain-soaked electricity pole on Wednesday. The Hulsoor police have registered a case.

Two oxen were struck dead by lightning at Vyasapura Tanda in Hagaribommanahalli taluk.

Fire at eatery leaves three dead, five others injured

TALIKOTE (VIJAYAPURA DISTRICT), DHNS: In a tragic incident, three customers at a restaurant in Talikote, Vijayapura district, died in a fire that was ignited following leakage of cooking gas at the eatery.

On May 29, at the Bhumika restaurant in Katri Bazaar in Talikote, owner of the restaurant Basavaraj Kumbara set out to ignite the stove to prepare breakfast and accompanying beverages for his customers. Leakage from the LPG cylinder, however, ignited a sudden blaze that left eight individuals, including Kumbara severely injured. All the eight individuals were subsequently admitted to a hospital in Vijayapura.

Of these, three customers – 42-year-old Bashir Ahmed Kadadarala, Shakeel Ahmed Kumbarawadi (35) and Rajakumara Gotagunaki (71) – succumbed to their injuries days after the incident. While Kadadarala and Kumbarawadi died on Tuesday night, Gotagunaki breathed his last on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the remaining five individuals who sustained burns are reportedly out of danger.

Biodiversity Bill: Expert urges enforcement

BENGALURU, DHNS: The ambitious Draft Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Bill, 2026 has been described by an expert as the much-needed instrument to protect marine biodiversity but suffers from several flaws.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences released the bill, designed to give India a mechanism to implement the BBNJ Agreement. India became signatory to the agreement in September 2024. The law allows the government to enact procedures and penalties that bind Indians, vessels and companies operating in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Public policy expert Narasimha Reddy Donthi noted that while the intent of the bill was commendable, it has several gaps that reduce it to "symbolic" instrument of compliance rather than an effective tool to conserve marine biodiversity.

He listed weak rationale for domestic legislation, lack of a clear strategic justification, limiting of authority and enforcement to Indian actors, abstract definition, lack of integration with the National Biodiversity Act, reducing fisher communities to knowledge holders rather than governance partners, lack of citizen participation and other "critical deficiencies" in the bill. He urged the government to strengthen enforcement, adopt a proactive mandate and integrate the bill with the existing laws to make it effective.

Traffic cop assaulted after stopping triple-riding motorcycle; two arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: A traffic police constable was allegedly assaulted by two men after he stopped a motorcycle for triple riding and rash driving in Jnanabharathi on Monday.

Lakshman Nayak, 30, a constable attached to the Jnanabharathi Traffic Police Station, was on duty near a traffic signal when he noticed a motorcycle carrying three persons and being ridden in a rash and negligent manner.

As he attempted to stop the vehicle, two of the occupants abused and assaulted him and pulled his uniform.

Based on Nayak's complaint, the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police registered a case against the accused, identified as Mubharaka and Shahid, for assaulting a public servant and obstructing him while discharging his official duties. Both were arrested.

Three arrested after video shows youths brandishing machetes

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have arrested three suspects after a video showing a group of youths brandishing weapons and creating panic among the public went viral.

The video shows eight youths riding two two-wheelers. Two of them are seen brandishing what appear to be machetes. The groups also quarrelled with each other, creating a tense situation, according to the FIR.

The incident occurred around 7.30 pm on May 30 at Pillanna Garden, off Tannery Road.

KG Halli police have registered a suo motu case under the Arms Act and arrested three suspects.

Special trains to Chhattisgarh, Bihar

BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways will operate special train services connecting Bengaluru with Chhattisgarh and Bihar.

Train number 08261 will depart from Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) every Wednesday at 2 pm from June 3 to July 1, and arrive at Yelahanka at 7 pm on Thursday.

In the return direction, train number 08262 will depart from Yelahanka every Thursday at 9.30 pm from June 3 to July 2, and reach Bilaspur at 3.30 am on Saturday. Train number 03251 will depart from Danapur (Bihar) at 3 pm until July 15, and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 2.30 pm on the third day. In the return direction, train number 03252 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 11.50 pm from June 3 to July 18, and reach Danapur on the third day.

DKS on day one as CM...

DKS, From Page 1

In another major move targeting urban dwellers, Shivakumar said the government will exempt buildings measuring up to 2,400 sq ft from obtaining occupancy certificates (OC).

This will be a one-time measure for building owners who have applied for OC before May 31, 2026.

Earlier, the government exempted plots of up to 1,200 sq ft. Shivakumar pointed out that property owners were left in the lurch after the Supreme Court made OC mandatory for power and water supply.

Also, the 'B' to 'A' khata conversion will be extended across Karnataka, Shivakumar said. In what seemed like an ode to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the government announced the creation of 10,000 'Bharat Jodo Youth Clubs' across Karnataka. "This will groom young leadership and promote social harmony. Each association will get a government grant of Rs 10 lakh," Shivakumar said.

Hariprasad new state Cong chief

Hariprasad, From Page 1

He served as NSUI general secretary from 1979-81 and All India Youth Congress vice-president from 1989-90. He was AICC joint secretary from 1997-98, All India Congress Seva Dal chairman from 2000-01, AICC secretary from 2001-06 and AICC general secretary from 2006-18.

In the AICC, he was in charge of a dozen states at different times. Elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1990, 2004, 2013 and 2014, he served on nearly a dozen parliamentary standing committees. He also represented India at international forums. An organisation man, he contested Bangalore South twice, losing to BJP's H N Ananth Kumar in 1999 and Tejasvi Surya in 2019. A vocal critic of the Modi government, BJP and RSS, his aggressive style and easy equation with Shivakumar are seen as assets to counter the opposition BJP's Hindutva politics. His vocal advocacy of political agency for OBC communities aligns with the Congress' OBC push at the national level.

His ties with Siddaramaiah were strained when he was denied a Cabinet berth during Siddaramaiah's tenure. Aligning with Shivakumar's camp, he later questioned Siddaramaiah's socialist credentials: "Someone who wears a panche, a Hublot watch and a khaki chaddi inside cannot be a socialist."

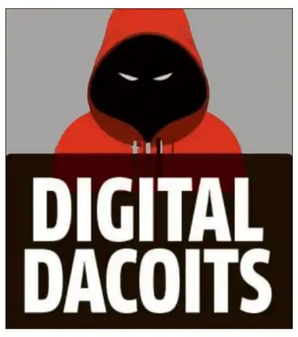
With long Delhi stints, Gandhi family proximity and the Ahinda push in his favour, Hariprasad's elevation also completes the "original" Congressmen's quiet effort to wrest key posts from "outsiders". His immediate task: manage factions, bridge the gap between party and the government, balance caste interests and prepare party for local body polls and 2028.

Nurse loses Rs 3.67 lakh in scam promising German language certificate without exam

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 34-year-old male nurse working at a private hospital in the city lost Rs 3.67 lakh to cyberfraudsters who promised him a German language certificate without an exam.

The victim, who hails from West Bengal, came across a Facebook advertisement claiming to provide a German language certificate without the mandatory exam.



Reached out through WhatsApp

Tempted by the offer, he contacted the advertisers, who later reached out to him through WhatsApp. The fraudsters convinced him that a processing fee of 700 Euro (approx Rs 77,000) was required to secure the certificate and gradually persuaded him to transfer money in multiple transactions. Instead of issuing the certificate, the accused allegedly demanded additional payments, raising suspicion.

Victim of a scam

Realising he had become a victim of a scam, he approached the JB Nagar police and filed a case.

"I had completed my B1-level German language course and was looking for opportunities to move to Germany. A group of four, including a woman, contacted me through WhatsApp using Indian and German SIM cards and repeatedly assured me that the process was genuine.

They even added me to Instagram groups where several people appeared to share positive feedback about receiving certificates. After speaking to some of them, I believed the offer was real.

"Since I needed a B2 certificate for better career prospects in Germany, I trusted them. They initially asked for a large amount, but later agreed to take smaller payments. Over time, they convinced me to transfer money on various pretexts and I lost Rs 3.67 lakh," the male nurse told *DH*.

TMC split: 50 rebel MLAs back Ritabrata as LoP

TMC, From Page 1

He and other rebel legislators, however, refrained from challenging the leadership of Mamata. "We would request her (Mamata) to guide us as the chief adviser to the legislative party," said Ritabrata, who had joined the TMC after being expelled from the CPM in 2017.

Mamata was referred to as the chairperson of the party in the letter the rebels submitted to the Speaker, informing him about the election of Ritabrata as the leader of the legislative party. "Our leader is Mamata Banerjee, and we are all Trinamool Congress legislators," Akhruzzaman, who was elected from Murshidabad's Raghunathganj, said.

Akhruzzaman was elected as the chief whip of the legislative party. Sandipan Saha, who was expelled with Ritabrata on Monday, and party veterans Javed Ahmed Khan, Sandipan Saha, Sabina Yasmin and Shiuli Saha, were appointed deputy leaders. The rebels included Samar Mukhopadhyay, Arup Roy, Rathin Ghosh, and Prasun Banerjee, all known as close and long-time associates of the TMC supremo.

The rebels reaffirmed their allegiance to Mamata, but also made it clear that they would no longer accept the authority of party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

"As a responsible Opposition, we will protest against any wrongdoing by the BJP government, both inside and outside the Assembly, but will also support it in any good initiative for the people," said Ritabrata.

The move to stage the coup gained momentum after Ritabrata and Sandipan were expelled from the TMC on Monday after Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari revealed that the duo had alleged that their signatures were forged on a resolution that Abhishek Banerjee had submitted to the Speaker in support of the claim that the veteran lawmaker Sovandev Chattopadhyay had been elected as the leader of the TMC legislative party and hence should be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition.

12 foreign nationals among 21 killed in Delhi hotel fire

Delhi hotel fire, From Page 1

"I saw four to six people breaking the glass and jumping from the building to escape the fire. One person's leg appeared to have been broken in the fall," an eyewitness said.

Officials fear that the death toll may rise as some of those admitted to hospitals were critical. The fire engulfed the ground, first and second floors, while the rest of the floors were affected by heat and smoke.

"The building was smoke-locked. There was fire everywhere. We rescued those trapped inside and dispatched them to the hospital. A few of those rescued were in a serious condition. Most of the people staying in the hotel were attendants of patients admitted in Max Hospital, which is nearby," Fire Officer Ravinder Singh said.

Investigators suspect that the fire might have started after a chef arrived at the ground-floor restaurant and switched on the electrical equipment. A blast-like sound was heard and moments later, there was fire.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of each deceased, and Rs 50,000 to those injured. Delhi Police registered a case under charges of culpable homicide and other relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The hotel was being run by three partners, who own other hotels and guesthouses across Delhi. The building owner has been identified as Lavkesh Bajaj, while the tourism department licence for running a B&B was issued in the name of Jai Mishra.

Officials said the hotel was operating beyond its permitted capacity — 25 rooms were offered to clients while permission was only for six — and had no fire safety clearance. Some of the rooms were operating from the basement, violating building rules. An initial probe showed that additional floors were built without permission.

Siddaramaiah loyalists dominate new Cabinet

Cabinet, From Page 1

Seniors from the previous Siddaramaiah government including H K Patil, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Zameer Ahmed and Dr H C Mahadevappa were dropped. The Congress also failed to pick a single woman minister in the first round, though KGF MLA Roopkala Shashidhar was said to be a probable, and former minister Laxmi Hebbalkar had lobbied hard in Delhi seeking berths for at least four women.

Only 10 of 31 districts are represented. With GBA polls nearing, four from Bengaluru Urban got preference, while Kalaburagi got two – Priyank Kharge and Sedam MLA Sharan Prakash Patil, of which Patil's name was an afterthought to deflect allegations of nepotism.

The next Cabinet expansion, likely in two weeks, is expected to accommodate Shivakumar's choices and balance region and caste ahead of local body polls and 2028 Assembly election.

"I am grateful to people for their love and trust. For those committed to ideology, the path is always difficult. Let us obey the high command's decision," posted H K Patil, after his name did not figure in the first list, triggering speculation over his appointment as Speaker.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MANGALORE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MANGALORE
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ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಮನಪ್ರಾ/ಲೆಕ್ಕ/ಹರಾಜು(01)/2026–27 Date: 02-06-2026

E-Auction Notification

E-AUCTION FOR INVESTMENT OF AVAILABLE FUNDS THROUGH KPP-PORTAL OF GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Mangaluru Urban Development Authority invites/offers quotes from eligible banks for investment by way of deposit. **Eligible Nationalised / Public sector / Regional Rural Banks and PRIVATE SECTOR SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK** having branches in Mangaluru can apply and download the tender document through KPP-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Date of e-Auction Notification 22-06-2026 Last Date to upload the Eligibility Criteria in Annexure A & Declaration in Annexure – B in the e-portal **17-06-2026 on or before 16.00 Hrs.** Live bidding Commences at **10.30 Hrs. on 22-06-2026 Concludes at 17.30 Hrs.** The bidder has to participate through online portal only.

Any details regarding the auction can be obtained from this office during office hours.

Adjournment of auction calendar (if any) will be notified through e-procurement portal.

**Sd/- Commissioner
Mangaluru Urban Development Authority
Mangaluru**

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/313/26-27 dt. 03.06.2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1&4 :Diferent Head : 2026-27/753 Dated : 02-06-2026

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division, Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 08 work of total amount of Rs. **872.00** Lakh (Min estimate amount: Rs- **2.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **200.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1, 3 and 4, through http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/

"Work Indent No : Part-1 : 35978, 36031, 35880, 33032/call-2, 32763-SC/call-2, 32773-SC/call-2, 32784 Category-2A/call-2

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **08-06-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **10-06-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date : **11-06-2026** Financial Bid Date : **12-06-2026**

"Work Indent No : Part-2 : 36229

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **20-06-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **22-06-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical / Financial Bid Date : **23-06-2026**

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/98/2026-27

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Division, Gadag.**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor,
Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052
No: DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/05/2026-27 Date: 03/06/2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the services mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Estimate amount of services (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration (Including Monsoon)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Providing exposure visit service for Pourakarmikas to Mysuru, Hosapete, Davanagere as part of the capacity-building programme	196.20	06 Months	2,94,300.00
2	Providing exposure visit service for Pourakarmikas to Chittapura and Mangaluru as part of the capacity-building programme	149.14	06 Months	2,23,750.00
3	Providing exposure visit service for Pourakarmikas to Udupi and Karwar as part of the capacity-building programme	144.00	06 Months	2,16,000.00
4	Providing exposure visit service for the Executive officials and Technical officials as part of the capacity-building programme. Call-4.	140.17	06 Months	2,10,255.00

Calendar of Events:
1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **10.06.2026 upto 17.30 Hrs. in KPP Portal. 2.** Pre bid meeting: **11.06.2026 at 15.00 Hrs at the** office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore. **3.** Last date for submission of the bids: **16.06.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4.** Date of opening of Technical bid on: **17.06.2026 at 16.30 Hrs. 5.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

DIPR/CP/966/NR/2026-27

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML

MSIL
Mysore Sales International Limited
PROJECTS DIVISION
MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road,
Bengaluru - 560 001. Ph: 080-22264021-25
No: MSIL/PRJ/052/2026-27 Date : 04.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION-CALL-2

(Through e-procurement portal)

Mysore Sales International Limited (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) invites E-tender through E-procurement platform for Execution of **Fencing System Works at MSIL Site located at Survey No. 89/17, Amargol Village, Hubballi Taluk, Dharwad District, Karnataka, comprising Barbed Wire Fencing, Chain Link Fencing and Installation of Gates**. The documents are available at E-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 04.06.2026 to 18.06.2026 up to 3.30 p.m.** The pre bid meeting date: **08.06.2026 at 3.30 p.m.**

Sd/- Chief General Manager , Projects Division.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

No.EEE/PD/TKR/AEE(O)/2026-27/881-84 Date: 30.05.2026

Name of the work: Establishing 2x500MVA, 2x100MVA, 220/66kV power transformers at 400/220/66kV sub-station at Huliyurudurga in Kunigal Taluk, Tumakuru District.

Construction of Double LILO (MC Tower) of 220KV line from the LILO point of 220kV Anchepalya-Nagamangala MC/DC line to the proposed 400/220/66kV Receiving Station at Huliyurdurga for a distance of 11.760kms with Drake ACSR conductor. Construction of 66kV LILO line on MC/DC Towers from LILOing of existing 66KV from Huliyurdurga-Anchepalya SC line to the proposed 400/220/66kV Receiving Station at Huliyurdurga(Using proposed 220/220kV MC NB Towers (KPTCL-2M-NB-NEWDHP and Proposed 110KV DC NBT (KPTCL-1D-NB) Towers and Drake conductor for a distance of 6.779kms. Construction of 66kV LILO line on MC/DC Towers from LILOing of existing 66KV from Huliyurdurga-Nidasale SC line to the proposed 400/220/66kV Receiving Station at Huliyurdurga (Using proposed 220/220kV MC NB Towers KPTCL-2M-NB-NEWDHP) and Proposed 110KV DC NBT (KPTCL-1D-NB) Towers and Drake conductor for a distance of 5.004kms.Construction of 66kV DC line from existing 66/11kV Yadavani sub-station to the proposed 400/220/66kV Receiving Station at Huliyurdurga (Using Proposed 110KV DC NBT (KPTCL-1D-NB) Towers and Drake conductor for a distance of 5.924kms. Providing radial connectivity to 66/11kV Amruthuru sub-station by stringing of second circuit from existing Amruthuru tap point of 66kV Anchepalya-Amruthuru-Sanabhaghatta-Yadavani line for a distance of 1.062km with coyote conductor. Construction of 2Nos. of 66kV terminal bay at 66/11kV Yadavani sub-station and construction of 1No. of 66kV terminal bay at 66/11kV Amruthuru sub-station.

Areas 220 KV & 66KV Line passing through: Tumakuru District, Kunigal Taluk, Amruthuru Hobli, Paduvagere, Kantanahalli, Sanaba, Valagerepura, Benavara, Kodihalli, Kilara, Byadagere, Yadavani, Ungra, Kagganahalli, Kodagihalli and Kunigal Taluk, Huliyurudurga Hobli, Hasigehobali, Shrungarasagara, Halevooru, Kebballi, Sonnanayakanahalli, Sugganahalli, Pura Villages.

Hence, hereby notified that the public in the above mentioned villages should not climb towers, not to throw any metal piece/wire, tree branches etc. to the line conductor and should not tie the cattles to the towers. As the above said line will be charged on or after **05.06.2026.** KPTCL will not be responsible in any way for any accidents that may occur due to negligence of public by doing above said activities.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer(Elec.),
Project Division, KPTCL, Kothithopu Road, Tumakuru.**

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ತುಮಕೂರು.
ಬಟವಾಡಿ, ತುಮಕೂರು–572103
E-mail:apmctumkur@gmail.com Ph:2281362, 2280713
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೃಮಾಇ/ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ತು/225/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.06.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ತುಮಕೂರು ವತಿಯಿಂದ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಗತಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನೂತನ ಆವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ:–

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ	ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ವರ್ಗ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ
1	2025–26 ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ತುಮಕೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಅಂತರಸನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಉಪಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ ಹೂವು, ಹಣ್ಣು ಮತ್ತು ತರಕಾರಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಸಿಲು, ಮಳೆ ಬೀಳದಂತೆ 1ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, 5, 6 ಮತ್ತು 7ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ಯಾಲ್‌ವ್ಯಾಲ್ಯೂಂ ಶೀಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.	8,03,89,438.00	12,06,000.00	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (KW-04) ರನ್ವಯ	ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಯಿತ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–04 ರಂತೆ	11 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)

1. ಬಿಡ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಕರಾರು ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15–06–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಸ್ಥಳ: ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ತುಮಕೂರು. 2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 02–07–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04–00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 3. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 06–07–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 4. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 10–07–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (ಅಥವಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ). 5. ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವ ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ.ಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಸಮಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0816–2281362ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
(ಬಿ.ಎಲ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪ) ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ,
ಕೃ ಉ ಮಾ ಸ, ತುಮಕೂರು

ಸಹಿ/–
(ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ನ್ಯಾಮಗೌಡ) ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಕೃ ಉ ಮಾ ಸ, ತುಮಕೂರು.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director (Education),
9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-11
No.: S.C.C.S.A.D.(E)/PR/218497/2026-27 Date: 03.06.2026

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS

Subject: Regarding obtaining current market rates for purchasing essential meterials for Kindergarten to Graduate Colleges of South City Corporation for the 2026-27 academic year.

With reference to the above subject, quotations are invited from reputable suppliers / shopkeepers to get current market rates for supplying of essential materials such as **Uniforms, Shoes & Socks, Bags and Sweaters** to the students studying in 05-Kindergarten, 01-High School and 01-Pre University College of Bengaluru South City Corporation for the year 2026-27. The details given below:

Sl. No.	Details of Materials to be Purchased	Details of the Sections to be Purchased	Number of Students Studying	Number of Materials Required
1	Uniform	From Kindergarten to Pre University College only	1121 (Pair)	For each Student
2	Shoe and Socks	Black colour Gola shoes for Kindergarten Students Black shoes and Brown colour canvas shoes for High School Students Blue colour canvas shoes for Pre University College Students	759 (Pair)	For each Student
3	Bags	From Kindergarten to Pre University College only	759	For each Student
4	Sweaters	From Kindergarten to Pre University College only	759	For each Student

Terms and Conditions:

1. It has been instructed to submit the price and specification for the total number of materials required for students studying in 05-Kindergarten, 01-High School and 01-Pre University College of the Corporation.
2. The prices quoted for the said materials shall be inclusive of GST.
3. Last date for submission of quotations in Sealed Cover: **06.06.2026 up to 4:30 P.M.**
4. Bids will be opened on **06.06.2026 at 5:00 P.M.** Interested parties may participate.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director (Education), Bengaluru South City Corporation

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Leaner monsoon, deeper drought threat

In the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s revised projections on the southwest monsoon, released last week, there are stronger indications of below-normal rainfall. The department now estimates the rainfall to be at 90% of the Long Period Average (LPA), a significant markdown from the 92% it projected in April. If the rainfall matches the downgraded estimate, this could be the weakest monsoon in 11 years. The IMD defines normal rainfall as ranging between 96% and 104% of a 50-year average of 87 cm for the four-month monsoon. At 90% rainfall, the projection carries the possibility of a drought. Though the official reports do not use the word "drought," there are enough signs when the possibility of a below-normal monsoon is at 60%. Among India's four geographical regions, only the North-East is expected to receive a normal monsoon. The deficiency will hit North-West and Central India and the Southern Peninsula – regions critical to the country's agricultural output.

One reason for the prediction of a lean monsoon is the possibility of a super El Niño developing in the Pacific. IMD said existing conditions may lead to it through the June-September period. It has been pointed out that many El Niño years have been drought years in India. Apart from the decrease in rainfall, the monsoon's late onset and likely irregular distribution, with long dry intervals between spells of showers may also result in drought-like conditions. India experienced its previous drought during 2016-18. The conditions are markedly different now – a drought is likely to have a significantly greater impact on the country's economy and the lives and livelihoods of its people. In the wake of the revised projections, the urgency in preparedness cannot be overstated.

Downgraded monsoon projections warrant stronger preparedness amid fears of depressed demand and inflation

A poor monsoon and possible drought conditions will aggravate uncertainty caused by the war in West Asia. India is going into the monsoon amid elevated global crude prices, higher petrol and diesel prices, and rising inflationary pressures. A poor kharif, hit by drought, could push up food prices and stoke inflation. Rural demand could be depressed, leaving a significant impact across sectors. Though the share of agriculture in the GDP is only about 14-15%, the sector has a disproportionately high influence on livelihoods. Governments, both at the Centre and in the states, should approach the projections with a strong contingency plan. The strategy must be upgraded and tailored to meet the escalated threat of a drought, preventing its fallout in agriculture and key sectors such as power, water, and industry.

Fund leakage calls for independent probe

The Karnataka government's admission that nearly Rs 100 crore under the flagship Gruha Lakshmi scheme was transferred to deceased or otherwise ineligible beneficiaries raises questions on whether it was only an oversight or something far worse. Under the scheme, Rs 2,000 a month is provided to women heads of eligible households. The government has disbursed nearly Rs 69,783 crore to more than 1.24 crore beneficiaries over the past three years. In a programme of this scale, some leakages are inevitable. But the identification of 1.04 lakh ineligible beneficiaries and the admission that funds continued to flow into accounts of deceased recipients suggest failures beyond routine clerical mistakes. The issue is compounded by earlier concerns that thousands of households, which should have been excluded under the scheme's norms, including taxpayers and other ineligible beneficiaries, may have slipped through the verification process. Administrative errors can be corrected through better systems and tighter control. Fraud, however, demands accountability, investigation, and prosecution.

The government has attributed much of the problem to the absence of a mechanism linking beneficiary databases with death records. That explanation is only partly convincing. The more troubling revelation is that money was allegedly withdrawn using mobile numbers linked to deceased beneficiaries, and that payments were made to individuals who did not even meet the basic eligibility criteria. Such transactions raise obvious questions. Who accessed these accounts? Who facilitated the enrolment of ineligible beneficiaries? Were there middlemen, local operators or officials involved in manipulating records? These questions cannot be answered through a simple verification exercise that the government has now ordered to clean up the rolls.

The transfer of Gruha Lakshmi funds to ineligible beneficiaries should not be treated as a mere bureaucratic lapse

Removing ineligible names from the database merely addresses the symptom. It does not uncover the mechanism that allowed the abuse to occur in the first place. A scheme handling public money in thousands of crores of rupees requires continuous audits, real-time cross-verification with birth and death registries, and robust fraud-detection systems. Equally important is fixing responsibility. If officers ignored warning signs, they must be held accountable. If organised networks exploited loopholes in the system, criminal cases must follow. The government must therefore order an independent inquiry into the leakages. The state cannot afford to treat this as a routine data-cleaning exercise. The Rs 100 crore already identified may well represent only the tip of the iceberg. The government must treat this as a serious case of systemic abuse rather than a bureaucratic lapse. It must launch a thorough investigation to determine who was responsible and who really profited.

BETWEEN HYPE AND ALARM

The AI divide: Why learners will ace the race

Preparedness and adaptation will ensure a crucial advantage. Execution, not technology, is the true differentiator

KANADPRIYA BASU

A deep study of technology cycles over the past thirty years teaches you one thing. Every wave arrives with the same script. First come the breathless predictions of mass extinction. Then the counterargument that nothing will really change. Then, quietly, the actual story emerges in the numbers. This version is almost never the one anyone was yelling about.

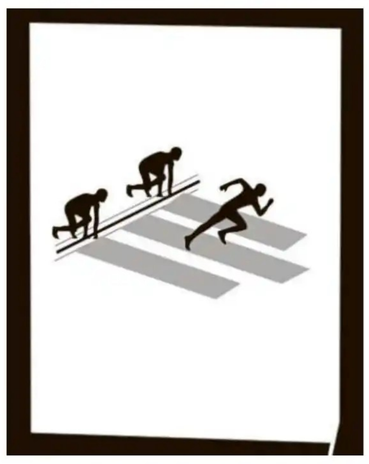
The panic merchants are wrong. So are the dismissers. What is actually happening is more structurally interesting than either side admits. This is a story about competitive moats, and moats are not about who has the newest tool. They are about who knows how to use it.

Look at what the market is signaling right now in American software. Salesforce, Intuit, and Adobe are way below their peak. The headline writers call this AI disruption. But markets are not monolithic, and they are not always right, especially in the short term. Look closer at what these companies own. Salesforce holds relationship data across more than 150,000 enterprise customers. Intuit has embedded AI agents into TurboTax, QuickBooks, and Credit Karma through a direct partnership with Anthropic. Adobe is weaving generative and agentic AI into workflows that creative teams at Fortune 500 companies depend on daily. These are not companies waiting to be disrupted. These are companies with distribution, lock-in, proprietary data, and operational depth. The market is mispricing them because it is confusing narrative with structure.

The internet was supposed to kill retail incumbents in 1999. The ones with real customer relationships and infrastructure adapted and grew. AI is setting up identically. When a company with a deep data moat deploys AI, the returns start to compound. Better data produces better outputs, and thus, better experiences that generate more data. That is a flywheel, and the gap between firms that have it spinning and firms that do not is widening pretty fast.

India tells a sharper version of this story. NASSCOM puts the Indian IT workforce at over five million people, generating north of $245 billion in revenue. That does not vanish overnight. But the internal sorting is accelerating fast. TCS, Infosys, and Wipro are also embedding AI into delivery and talent development in ways that are quietly redefining what a billable hour means.

Meanwhile, ICICI and HDFC are running credit-scoring and fraud detection at a scale that would have needed armies of analysts five years ago. The firms treating AI as a marketing slide are getting commoditised in real time. The Reserve Bank of India tracked digital lending crossing $270 billion in



2023, driven heavily by AI-enabled risk models. The banks deploying this well are not firing people wholesale. They are moving talent up the value chain while serving multiples more customers at lower marginal cost. That is a structural advantage that compounds. The laggards are not losing gradually. They are losing ground at speed.

The adaptability metric

Goldman Sachs estimates generative AI could add 7% to global GDP over a decade. McKinsey puts the potential India-specific gain at $1.2 to $1.5 trillion by 2030. These are not small numbers, and they are not evenly distributed. The gains flow to firms with customer trust, data depth, and the operational discipline to integrate AI into real workflows rather than bolt it on as a feature. The World Economic Forum's 2023 Future of Jobs Report is worth reading in full. Yes, 85 million jobs were potentially displaced by 2025. But 97 million new roles could be created. The net is a transformation with a brutal sorting mechanism.

That sorting mechanism is the real story. In American healthcare, AI is helping radiologists process scans faster and with greater accuracy, not replacing the radiologist. The American College of Radiology has been clear about this. AI augments diagnosis, reduces burnout, and improves throughput. The radiologist who uses AI well becomes more valuable. The practice that integrates AI into its workflow grows capacity without growing headcount proportionally. In US logistics, UPS and FedEx are running AI across route optimisation, delay prediction, and fuel efficiency. The common element here is smarter operations, not mass layoffs.

An OECD study captured something important here. Workers in firms actively deploying AI report higher productivity and job satisfaction. Meanwhile, in firms resisting or simply ignoring AI, workers report stagnation and higher anxiety. The divide is not humans versus machines; it is humans plus machines. It is prepared organisations versus unprepared ones.

Social media trained us to surrender attention. GenAI is training us to surrender cognition. The person who asks AI for an answer without understanding the question is not becoming more productive but more dependent. And dependence at scale is a vulnerability that never shows up in earnings calls. The firms that win with AI are training humans who use it as a force multiplier on genuine thinking, not a substitute for it. History is clear on what happens to the unprepared. They do not get replaced by technology but by a competitor who figured out how to use it first. The tool is not the disruption. The execution gap is.

Companies with real data foundations, genuine customer relationships, and the operational rigour to integrate AI at scale will use this moment to widen their lead by years. Workers who develop genuine fluency with AI will find their value going up, not down. Firms and individuals who treat AI as either an existential threat or an overhyped distraction will find themselves on the wrong side of a divide that is not going to close. History has taught us one simple thing: technology is never the whole story. The story is always about who learns fastest.

(The writer is visiting faculty at Costello Business School, George Mason University, US)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Thousand-armed secret of *saas bahu*

Mahipala, a benevolent king, also knew how to ensure domestic peace

BHARATHI PRABHU

It was the last leg of our Rajasthan trip. We had had our fill of palaces, forts and lakes. Aching limbs and an overloaded sensory system were urging us to stay back in the hotel, but our guide was insistent. The *Saasbahu* temple nearby is worth visiting, he said. "It is not an 'active' temple—no *pooja* is done here, but the architecture is fabulous." *Saas-bahu*, as in mother-in-law and daughter-in-law? We queried. When he replied in the affirmative, we decided to shush our limbs.

When we arrived at the temple, a convolutely worded notice at the entrance greeted us. We gathered that this 11th-century temple was built in the Maru-Gurjara style of architecture. There were few visitors that morning. A gentle breeze was blowing over from the pond nearby.

The bigger of the temples is known as the Saas Temple, and the smaller one as the Bahu Temple. Legend has it that King Mahipala, who built this temple complex, first commissioned a Vishnu temple for his wife, a devotee of Vishnu. Later, he also built a Shiva temple for his daughter-in-law, who liked to worship Shiva. So, Mahipala was not only a benevolent king but also someone who knew how to ensure domestic peace. Had our *saas-bahu* serials on television adopted a similar policy, they could never have stretched over years, remarked our friend.

The Saas temple is surrounded by remnants of smaller temples and has more elaborate carvings on its pillars and walls. A beautiful lotus adorns its roof. Intricately carved arches flank the pillars. The Bahu temple has fewer structures surrounding it, and the carvings are less intricate. "Just goes to show who the boss was," joked our friend. After commissioning the two temples, perhaps King Mahipala decided that he would no longer get involved in the power dynamics. Apparently, villagers used to cook in the Bahu Temple till recently, and it is sad to see the interior blackened with soot. Once again, an indication of what *bahus* were expected to do?

Scenes from the *Ramayana*, *samudra manthana*, and beautifully carved human figures, many of them erotic, can be found in both temples. In our enthusiasm to further expound on the *saas-bahu* stereotypes, we concluded that by the time the temples were completed, some kind of truce had been arrived at by both parties, and hence this concession even to the Bahu Temple. It was then that our guide informed us. "Actually, the first temple was dedicated to Sahasrabaahu – one with a thousand arms – a name commonly given to Lord Vishnu. The name subsequently got simplified to *Saas-Bahu*!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is time to do away with VIP culture

I refer to your editorial, 'Privilege in the fast lane must stop' (Jun 3). It is unfortunately true that no sooner is an elected representative sworn in as a minister than he hankers for privileges commensurate with his 'status'. It is a malaise built in the system itself. It is inappropriate in a democracy that the so-called VIPs and their convoys are given a smooth passage while citizens are stranded on roads for hours. While no one yet questions the privileges being accorded to public representatives, the general public should not be inconvenienced or deprived of their right to move lawfully. The VIP culture has no place in civil society and should be given a go-by.

T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

Nurture football

It is disappointing to note the sorry state of football in India. Though a common man's game with minimal investment demands, it does not figure prominently in India's sporting scene, which is consumed by cricket. One hopes football, which is the world's top sport, is nurtured to open avenues for the country's sporting talent.

V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Rout out narcotics

The Supreme Court of India has rightly observed that 'drug peddlers are ruining the youths for generations'. Drug addiction, particularly among the youth, is a threat to society and culture. Drug peddlers, who appear to be flourishing thanks to weak law enforcement, must be brought to book. They are like cancer in society and must be routed out without mercy. The SC upholding the Madras High Court's order of not granting bail to drug peddlers comes as a relief. The law-enforcing authorities and the judiciary should act fast in dealing with cases of narcotic offences.

S Sundara Pandian, Bengaluru

Ensure energy security

With reference to 'Oil stocks may hit critical levels' (Jun 3), the warning is deeply concerning. Persistent stock drawdowns could trigger price volatility, burdening households and businesses alike. For oil-importing nations like India, the situation underscores the urgency of strengthening energy security and accelerating the transition towards sustainable alternatives. Policymakers must act with foresight rather than wait for a crisis to unfold.

Bhavya Singhal, Greater Noida

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I invite all the ordinary workers of all parties, especially of TMC, to come and join Congress. We are ready to welcome you. It's for the good that all the corrupt elected TMC representatives have indirectly joined the BJP.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress leader

Feeling superior doesn't make one superior. Hubris doesn't humble others.

Guy R McPherson

TO BE PRECISE

Whistleblower student appears before Parliament panel

IN PERSPECTIVE

Seeking stability amid turbulence

Messaging from major Indo-Pacific powers at the Shangri-La Dialogue reveals a region in flux

GURJIT SINGH

The 2026 Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) held in Singapore from May 29 to 31 demonstrated a nuanced shift in the Indo-Pacific security landscape. As Asia's premier security forum, it remained a venue where major powers articulate strategic priorities and smaller states test the credibility of those commitments. The dialogue reflected a region grappling with uncertainty: doubts about the United States' staying power, China's selective engagement, persistent maritime tensions, and the growing interconnectedness of Asian and global security crises.

Participation was a measure of continuity. The SLD attracted 44 countries, with 54 ministerial-level delegates and 42 military chiefs. Despite geopolitical fragmentation, the SLD remains a venue for defence diplomacy in Asia.

A conspicuous departure from past practice was China's representation. For the second consecutive year, Beijing did not send Defence Minister Dong Jun. Instead, it dispatched a lower-profile delegation of military scholars and academics. This marks a significant break from the past, when Chinese defence ministers used the SLD to present Beijing's strategic narrative and engage directly with regional counterparts. China's absence became a topic of discussion in itself, raising questions about Beijing's willingness to subject its policies to public scrutiny and debate.

The US maintained its tradition of high-level participation through Pete Hegseth. There was continuity in Washington's core message: the US remains committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific and opposes attempts at regional hegemony. The criticism of China was muted. Yet there was an important adjustment in tone. Earlier, Taiwan dominated US messaging; Hegseth's remarks focused on burden-sharing and allied defence spending. He urged Asian partners to assume greater responsibility for their security while reaffirming a sustained US military presence in the region. This reflects the broader evolution of US policy under the second Trump administration: strategic commitment remains, but allies are expected to contribute more.

For ASEAN, the most important voice was that of the President of Vietnam, To Lâm, who delivered the keynote address. This notably emphasised three interrelated crises: weakening respect for international law, stagnating development models amid climate stress, and declining trust among countries. These themes reflect ASEAN's priorities of stability, inclusiveness, and multilateralism, rather than endorsing bloc politics. Vietnam projected an ASEAN-centred approach that seeks strategic autonomy amid great-power rivalry. The message resonated with a region increasingly uncomfortable with being forced to choose between big powers.

India's participation demonstrated continuity in its Indo-Pacific outlook. Represented by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, India maintained a slightly lower profile than other powers. Its engagements focused on strengthening defence partnerships, promoting a stable Indo-Pacific, and expanding security cooperation with both regional and extra-regional actors. India's message remained consistent with its support for a rules-based order, strategic autonomy, and practical security cooperation rather than alliance politics. The announcement of the Brahmos sales to Vietnam and Indonesia struck a chord.

The US also signalled continuity in its view of India as a key strategic partner. Hegseth described India as a powerful and modernising military actor and an important anchor in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific. This perhaps reflects the continuity in Washington's long-term assessment of India's strategic value, as reflected in the results of the Rubio visit.

Larger security landscape

Pakistan's presence was relatively subdued. Unlike previous years when India-Pakistan exchanges occasionally dominated headlines, Islamabad did not emerge as a central actor. Pakistani concerns about India's military modernisation surfaced during question-and-answer sessions, particularly regarding India's missile capabilities.

The US response was balanced, avoiding language that would elevate India-Pakistan competition into a major agenda item. South Asian strategic competition remains important but is increasingly peripheral to the broader Indo-Pacific security discourse, which is now dominated by China, maritime security, technology, and supply-chain resilience.

The relevance of the discussions to current regional realities was particularly striking. Maritime security, undersea infrastructure protection, cyber threats, and grey-zone coercion featured prominently. Concerns over damage to subsea cables, tensions in the South China Sea, and questions about the future of international law highlighted how security challenges have expanded beyond traditional military competition.

SLD 2026 revealed a region seeking stability amid uncertainty. The US sought continuity but with greater burden-sharing. China maintained its pattern of selective engagement and strategic ambiguity. ASEAN reaffirmed its commitment to inclusiveness and international law. India continued its steady rise as a consequential Indo-Pacific actor. Pakistan remained present but increasingly peripheral to the SLD's central strategic debates.

Trust, resilience, economic security, technological competition, and the defence of international norms have become equally important components of the regional security agenda.

(The writer is a former Ambassador to ASEAN and author of The Durian Flavour*)*

The Kashmir Delhi wanted is emerging, by becoming differently political

DATELINE Srinagar

ZULFIKAR MAJID

For nearly three decades, Kashmir moved to the rhythm of shutdown calendars, protest calls and the politics of collective defiance.

A single militant killing, a separatist speech or a call for *hartal* could paralyse life across the Valley. Markets shut instantly, public transport disappeared, schools closed and neighbourhoods submitted themselves to an atmosphere where resistance shaped politics and daily routine.

That Kashmir has not entirely disappeared. Alienation still exists. Distrust of New Delhi has not evaporated. Political uncertainty continues to linger beneath the surface. Yet something fundamental is changing quietly inside Kashmiri society — and perhaps for the first time, the change is emerging less from State policy and more from social transformation within the Valley.

Ironically, the Kashmir New Delhi spent decades trying to create through security operations, political outreach, elections, development packages and finally the abrogation of Article 370 may now be emerging not through official strategy alone, but through exhaustion, economics and generational change.

The transformation is subtle. It cannot always be measured through electoral statistics or government claims. It is visible instead in booming tourist destinations, expanding coaching centres, rising property prices, packed cafés and online businesses and a generation increasingly obsessed with careers, mobility and financial stability.

The most telling change in Kashmir today is not ideological. It is psychological.

A generation that grew up amid conflict has begun to view instability less as a symbol of resistance and more as a direct threat to personal survival and aspiration. From 1990 to 2019, shutdowns carried emotional and political legitimacy in large sections of society. Today, even people deeply critical of Delhi privately worry more about internet suspension, disrupted examinations or a bad tourist season.

The language of everyday conversation has changed. Young Kashmiris discuss recruitment exams, study visas, business opportunities, social media reach and tourism investments with an intensity that has gradually overtaken the emotional vocabulary of separatist politics.

This does not mean Kashmir has suddenly become ideologically pro-India. Such a conclusion would be both simplistic and dishonest. The Valley continues to carry memories of violence, political betrayals and accumulated resentment. But the centre of gravity within society is shifting. Politics no longer monopolises public imagination the way it once did.

The new Kashmiri middle class reflects this transition most clearly.

Over the past few years, tourism has created an entire ecosystem dependent on stability — hotel owners, taxi operators, homestay entrepreneurs and café owners. Neighbourhoods now revolve around consumer culture that simply cannot coexist with prolonged unrest.

The growth of coaching institutes across the Valley tells another story. Every year, thousands prepare for NEET, UPSC, JKAS and other exams. Families spend enormous sums on education, often sending children to within and outside India. Parents who once viewed politics as central to identity increasingly see education as the primary route to dignity and security.

Even social media has altered Kashmir's social mood. The Valley's younger generation lives in a digital environment shaped less by underground networks and more by influencers, lifestyle content and global exposure. Instagram tourism reels now travel faster than separatist messaging.

Conflict itself has also lost much of the glamour it once carried. There was a time when militancy produced emotional mobilisation across large sections of society. Funerals became political theatres. Entire towns shut spontaneously. Today, while sympathy and anger may still exist, there is visible public fatigue with cycles of disruption and death.

Part of this shift comes from sheer exhaustion. Kashmir has lived through more than three decades of violence, crackdowns, disappearances, encounters and political uncertainty. An entire generation has grown up without experiencing normal democratic stability. For many young people now entering adulthood, the idea of a permanently agitated society no longer feels revolutionary. It feels economically suffocating.

Yet New Delhi would make a mistake if it interprets this silence as complete emotional integration or political closure.

The decline of street mobilisation does not necessarily mean the disappearance of political grievance. Many Kashmiris continue to feel politically disempowered after the dilution of statehood and the centralisation of authority. Conversations across the Valley increasingly reveal frustration not merely with politicians, but with a bureaucratic system perceived as distant and unaccountable.

Even elected representatives often complain privately that decision-making remains concentrated outside democratic institutions. This gap between administrative control and political representation creates its own resentment, even among those participating fully in economic life.

That is why Kashmir's current transformation remains deeply layered. The Valley is not moving from separatism to nationalism in any neat ideological sense. It is transitioning from a conflict-driven society to an aspiration-driven one. The shift is social before it is political.

The old politics of emotion has not vanished entirely, but it now competes with a powerful new politics of personal ambition. Families investing in businesses, education and property have developed a direct stake in stability. A society once organised around collective resistance is increasingly negotiating its future through individual advancement.

For decades, Delhi attempted to stabilise Kashmir largely through the language of security and statecraft. What is unfolding now is something more organic and therefore more significant: a gradual reordering of social priorities from within Kashmiri society itself. Kashmir is not becoming less political. It is becoming differently political.

DHNS

A free stress-management class offers labourers in Dubai a temporary oasis of calm amid struggles with debt, loneliness, long hours and now, the fear of missile strikes

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

For Dubai's migrants, war is one more worry in stressed lives

MANSI CHOKSI

On a recent Sunday morning, Laxmi Parekh stood under a low ceiling of flickering tube lights in the cafeteria of a housing compound in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and faced an audience of painters, carpenters and electricians, tasked with teaching stress management.

"Who knows what's been going on here for the past 43 days?" Parekh, 59, who volunteers with a nonprofit organisation called SmartLife, asked the group of men.

"War situation," someone in the front shouted.

Since the US-Israeli war with Iran began on February 28, Iran has fired more missiles and drones toward the UAE than any other country, resulting in the deaths of at least 10 civilians, and injuring 230 people, according to the defence ministry in the UAE. Most of those affected were migrant workers, like those gathered in the spartan cafeteria, where steel plates and spoons clanked as Parekh spoke.

Parekh has been running these weekly mental health workshops across Dubai's migrant-worker dormitories for the past two years. Outside her day job as an information technology professional, Parekh gives her time to SmartLife, which organises free English-speaking lessons, mentorship programmes and game nights in the city's blue-collar migrant communities. It gets much of its financial support from the companies that employ the workers and the money transfer firms that help remit their income home.

In March, as the regional conflict intensified, Parekh began adjusting her sessions to include discussion of it.

"How many of you are scared?" she asked the gathered 40 or so men, many from India, Pakistan and Nepal.

The room burst into protest — a boisterous chorus of denial, awkward laughter and overlapping voices. "Not for a minute," one man said. "You cannot let fear control you," another said. "Scared of what?"

Many of these workers have lived through periods of instability before — debt, unemployment, political unrest and climate disasters. The fallout from the war was just one more stressor in lives already filled with them.

In her sessions, Parekh tries to offer tips for coping: steady breathing during air raid sirens, maintaining daily routines and speaking calmly to anxious families back home.

"Yes, we will hear sounds, shrapnel will fall somewhere, you may see smoke," Parekh said. "But think of it like a Hindi film — a bad guy's bullet is stopped by a good guy's bullet. The same thing is happening in our skies."

Still, even as their teacher counselled calm and the men put on brave faces, the war was taking a toll.

Since the first day of the conflict, when he had seen a fireball bloom in the sky after a missile was intercepted above him on his weekly grocery run, Ramapathi Sharma, 48, a carpenter from of Gorakhpur, said he had struggled to sleep.

He would lie awake with thoughts of his three children, his youngest son in Class 9, and the promise he had made to his dying brother to look after his family, too. Now and then, the low rumble of fighter jets circling overhead would press down in waves. The booms would rattle the room's windows, followed by the frantic screeching of birds. More than once, he had considered leaving after 22 years on the job.

"Of course I am scared," Sharma said.

But his fear was less about what could happen to him — and more about what could happen to those who depend on him.

He turned to his friend of two decades, Gopal Sharma, 47, from Siwan, a foreman in the same company, who was sitting beside him. "If something happens to us here," he asked, "how will our families survive?"

"The real question, brother," Gopal Sharma, who is not related to Ramapathi Sharma, replied, "Is that even if we go home, who will give us work that pays as much as we get here?"

Untold numbers of migrant workers across the UAE were making similar calculations: No matter how bad the fighting might get, could they afford to leave?

Since the discovery of oil in the 1960s, a bolt of fortune that set off a construction boom across the UAE, the country has relied heavily on foreign workers like the Sharmas. An estimated 2.2 million blue-collar workers, largely from South Asia and Africa, account for the majority of expatriates, who in turn, form more than 80% of the population.

And however hard the work, or long the hours — or the number of missiles that fall — the workers can make far more here than at home.

Azan Tahir, 26, a delivery driver from Attock, Pakistan, spent his days in Dubai ferrying meals and groceries across the city as missiles and drones were intercepted overhead. Often, GPS signals were scrambled to confuse incoming threats, leaving him at the wrong location and dealing with frayed tempers on the phone.

"You have to keep your cool in this job," Tahir said. "The war situation may keep changing, but our necessities don't change. We are here to earn."

As the war wore on, the Sharmas developed a routine for dealing with it. The two friends would rise together at dawn, make tea and walk slow loops around the dormitory grounds. Before their shifts doing carpentry work at different hotels, they would sit down and pray together. At work, whenever a shelter-in-place alert sounded, they would text to make sure the other person was safe.

Parekh, the stress-management teacher, has noticed a shift in the mood among the migrant labourers she visits as the war and fragile ceasefire have dragged on. The workers, especially newer recruits, withdraw more than ever into their phones, scrolling through the news, watching videos — and checking ticket prices home. In one case, she said, a worker ground down his teeth in his sleep. In another, a man suffered a breakdown and turned violent, hurling himself at strangers and lashing out at friends.

This shift has presented an additional challenge to Parekh, who sees her role not just as helping workers manage stress in general, but also as helping them cope with the strains of life in Dubai — so they can continue to work here.

"I tell them — you're having all these anxieties, people back home are calling you and telling you that money doesn't matter. You are having second thoughts because your friend is telling you that he is going back. I tell them — I'm here in front of you, and I am not leaving," Parekh said.

Recently, she was called in to provide counselling when crates of bootleg alcohol were found buried in sand just beyond a housing compound's grounds. Booze is expensive and hard to buy outside licensed shops, so migrant workers sometimes make their own.

"Madam, what do you expect?" one man asked her. "A labourer should go to a wine shop and buy Johnny Walker?"

Before her recent stress-management session ended, Parekh played a video, and the soothing sounds of singing bowls, gongs and chimes swelled through the cafeteria speakers.

"Sometimes all we need to do is close our eyes and breathe," she said.

After the workshop, Ramapathi Sharma took a glass of milky tea to a wooden bench outside and dialled his wife. As usual, he flipped his camera to show her the 163-story Burj Khalifa glittering in the distance, beyond a horizon of sand-bleached housing blocks, covered in scaffolding and clothes hung to dry.

A stream of men passed through the frame, carrying crates of eggs and bread back to their rooms. A group of workers cleared a parking lot for an informal game of cricket, and the wails of a Hindi love song spilled into the air. For the moment, amid all the tension, the camp returned to its weekend rhythms.

The New York Times

Recalibrate CBSE's digital reform

UPASHA KUMARI

The Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE's) introduction of the on-screen marking (OSM) system signalled a significant shift in India's examination evaluation process. Instead of physical answer sheets being transported across evaluation centres, copies were scanned, uploaded, and digitally assessed through an online portal. The reform promised greater efficiency, faster result processing, reduced manual errors, and improved transparency.

For an examination board operating at CBSE's scale, the move towards digital evaluation was perhaps both necessary and inevitable. Educational systems globally are increasingly integrating technological tools to streamline assessment practices and manage large-scale administrative processes more effectively.

However, the controversy surrounding the rollout of the OSM system reveals a larger and increasingly relevant concern: the growing tendency to equate technological adoption with institutional progress.

Reports emerging from different parts of the country have raised understandable anxiety among students and parents. One student reportedly downloaded a Class 12 Physics answer sheet only to discover that it was not his paper. Another claimed that the answer sheet uploaded under his name did not match his handwriting. Simultaneously, students have reported crashed portals, failed payment systems, and confusion regarding unexpectedly low marks.

Large public examination systems inevitably encounter transitional challenges, particularly during major technological shifts. Yet, in a high-stakes educational environment where scores significantly shape higher education opportunities and career pathways, even isolated administrative or technical lapses acquire enormous significance.

The issue, therefore, reflects a broader policy moment in education where digitisation, AI integration, automation, and performance metrics are increasingly projected as indicators of reform and modernisation. Across educational institutions, there is visible pressure to rapidly adopt technological systems, from AI-assisted learning platforms and automated assessments to digital monitoring tools and data-driven governance structures.

Technology undoubtedly has transformative potential within education. It can improve accessibility, reduce logistical burdens, enhance data management, and support more efficient administrative processes. However, educational reform cannot be sustained through software adoption alone. Institutional readiness, pedagogic adaptation, infrastructure capacity, cybersecurity safeguards, and stakeholder training remain equally important.

Questions surrounding the pace of implementation in the CBSE case illustrate this tension clearly. CBSE reportedly floated the tender for the On-Screen Marking system in November 2025 and announced its nationwide rollout by February 2026. According to reports, governing body members had suggested regional pilot projects before full implementation. However, the system appears to have undergone only a limited pilot exercise involving around 100 teachers in Delhi, followed by training sessions for nearly two lakh evaluators across the country.

This raises a critical question: can reforms affecting millions of students be implemented effectively without gradual testing, contextual adaptation, and institutional preparation? Educational systems are not purely technological ecosystems; they are deeply human spaces shaped by trust, pedagogy, and emotional consequence. Evaluation processes, in particular, depend not only on efficiency but also on consistency, procedural clarity, and public confidence. Teachers engaging with new digital systems require orientation, technical support, and adequate transition time. Students and parents require reliable grievance redress and transparent communication.

While such claims require careful and independent technical verification, the episode nonetheless underlines the importance of transparent cybersecurity audits and institutional responsiveness in digital educational systems.

The larger challenge before educational institutions today is not technological integration itself but ensuring that the rapid push towards AI and data-driven governance does not outpace institutional capacity and preparedness. A balanced approach to educational reform requires recognising both the possibilities and limitations of technological systems. Efficiency cannot become the sole language of reform, particularly in education where processes directly affect young people's futures, confidence, and opportunities. Technological advancement must therefore be accompanied by ethical safeguards, institutional preparedness, and a continued emphasis on the human dimensions of education.

(The author writes on education and international relations and is the co-author of Creativity and Critical Pedagogy in Education*)*

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

Nettakallappa dead

Bangalore, June 3
Mr. K. A. Nettakallappa, former Managing Editor, *Deccan Herald* and former Director-Secretary of The Printers (Mysore) Ltd., proprietors of the *Deccan Herald* group of journals, died of a heart attack yesterday morning. Mr. Nettakallappa, who was 47, is survived by his wife, Smt. Jambuvati Nettakallappa, and three sons, Harikumar, Tilakkumar and Shantakumar. He is the nephew of Mr. K. N. Guruswamy, Governing Director of The Printers (Mysore) Ltd.

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

Mother tongue medium up to class VII

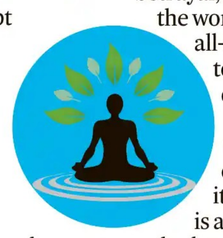
Bangalore, June 3
A high-level committee, headed by Primary and Secondary Education Minister H Vishwanath, has decided to introduce Kannada or mother tongue as the medium of instruction in schools (class I-VII) from the next academic year, as recommended by Kannada Development Authority Chairman Baragur Ramachandrappa in his report. The report will be implemented without any changes, for which Chief Minister S M Krishna has to give his assent.

OASIS | LEELA RAMASWAMY

Faith is fundamental to inner strength

It is a scene that few can ever overlook or dismiss easily. It occurs in the epic *Mahabharata*, where Dushasana, the brother of Duryodhana, drags Draupadi by her hair to the royal court and attempts to disrobe her. A distraught Draupadi prays fervently to Lord Krishna, who, using his divine powers, turns the sari endless, making Dushasana tired and spent. It leaves one wonderstruck at the great faith that Draupadi placed in Krishna.

However, few of us possess this kind of faith and trust in a Supreme Being. It is all very well when life is moving smoothly, with no worries. But when the going becomes difficult, sad and worrisome, not many of us possess this kind of trust and faith.



We cannot help but doubt whether anyone could be blessed with complete peace and joy – no regrets and no fears. So often are we wrapped in misery with no joy in sight! We indulge in rituals that seem to have no meaning. We go to places of worship and plead with the gods to have mercy. We believe that only the pure of heart deserve happiness, but we see, at the same time, the unjust and the cruel enjoying themselves. There is so much betrayal, cheating and corruption in the world that we wonder how an all-knowing God of Love can tolerate this. But we cannot doubt everything.

As human beings, we need to believe in something, even though on the face of it, it is wildly implausible. It is a crutch we need when in doubt or suffering. Besides, faith is healthy. It is an affirmation of human worth and goodness. How happy we are when somebody does a good turn or speaks kindly to us! Belief, we now see, is born of and made up of the basic goodness of our fellow beings. This basic rightness in the world can renew us and remind us to treat others with compassion and respect. In turn, others will respect our belief in them. Sometimes, we stumble. But that need not depress us. It is people with strong faith that are best able to live life well. To have faith in goodness and in a Supreme Being is fundamental.

To nurture such faith is to discover an inner resilience that sustains us through adversity and illuminates our path.

Ritabrata Banerjee's long road from CPM to Trinamool power play

He has now become the Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In November 2017, a West Bengal Police team camped in Delhi to apprehend a Rajya Sabha member from the state after a woman from North Bengal filed a complaint accusing the lawmaker of sexual exploitation.

The case was being investigated by the state CID, headed by senior IPS officer Rajesh Kumar, who ironically is now a BJP legislator.

Ritabrata Banerjee denied the allegations and described the police action as politically motivated. He also filed a counter-complaint, accusing the woman of extortion.

A few months earlier, in September 2017, the CPM had expelled Ritabrata for alleged anti-party activities, moral degeneration and having a lifestyle beyond his known means.

Fearing arrest, Ritabrata reportedly took refuge at the Delhi residence of a former Trinamool Congress MP who had defected to the BJP, before quietly leaving for a South Asian destination.

He resurfaced in Mumbai a couple of months later to attend a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, of which he was a member.

Ritabrata Banerjee

The committee was then headed by TMC leader Derek O'Brien. The former quizmaster had replaced another close Mamata aide and former Railway Minister Mukul Roy, who was increasingly seen as moving closer to the BJP.

After returning to India and following a brief cooling-off period, Ritabrata joined the Trinamool.

Interestingly, Ritabrata was once regarded as a protégé of former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya. The CPM stalwart played a key role in promoting him within the party and facilitating his entry into the Rajya Sabha at a relatively young age.

Ritabrata first came into the limelight in April 2013 when he and several colleagues from the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the CPM's student wing, were arrested while organising a protest outside the Planning Commission in Delhi against Mamata and her then Finance Minister Amit Mitra.

The protest was over the death of a party worker in alleged police action in Kolkata.

After joining the Trinamool, Ritabrata was entrusted with responsibilities among tea garden workers in north Bengal, reflecting the party's recognition of his grounding in Left politics. He later went on to head the TMC's trade union wing.

He was subsequently elected to the Rajya Sabha in a by-election held to fill a vacancy.

When his Rajya Sabha term came up for renewal earlier this year, the party instead asked him to contest the Assembly elections. His Rajya Sabha seat was allotted to Babul Supriyo, the singer and former Union minister who had also crossed over from the BJP to the Trinamool.

Ritabrata won the Assembly election and now, with the support of a majority of Trinamool MLAs, has managed to become the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, sidelining Mamata's choice for the post.

Film body withdraws ban on Ranveer Singh

MRITYUNJAI BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) has withdrawn its Non-Cooperation Directive (NCD) against actor Ranveer Singh, bringing an end to a controversy that had triggered a debate on contractual commitments and dispute-resolution mechanisms within the entertainment sector.

Ranveer Singh

The FWICE had imposed the directive after Singh allegedly failed to respond to the industry body's repeated summons in connection with his reported exit from "Don 3" — a much-awaited film being produced by Farhan Akhtar's production house.

Singh's withdrawal from the project had reportedly led to concerns among producers and industry stakeholders over financial implications and scheduling disruptions associated with large-budget productions.

The issue gained prominence after the FWICE called upon its members to refrain from working with Singh until the matter was resolved.

However, the intervention of the Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association (IMPPA), along with consultations involving key stakeholders from the film fraternity, paved the way for a settlement.

According to industry sources, discussions were held between representatives of the FWICE, IMPPA, and other industry bodies, during which it was collectively decided to resolve the matter constructively and amicably rather than allowing the dispute to escalate further.

CBSE confirms cyberattack on re-evaluation portal

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A day after it launched a portal for reevaluation and recertification of Class 12 Board exam answer sheets, the CBSE said it faced a cyberattack on the portal.

"This afternoon, a 3.8-million-packet denial of service attack on website was successfully thwarted," it said.

It also said that it had received over 56,000 applications by late evening, and that the site had hosted 16,000 concurrent users.

In a statement earlier in the day, the CBSE said that it had received 4,924 applications for verification and 39,056 applications for re-evaluation till Wednesday noon.

In response to questions on payment gateways, the CBSE said that students need not have bank accounts listed to use the gateway. "Our teams remain on constant watch to ensure a secure, and student-friendly platform," it said.

Meanwhile, members of the CBSE deposed in front of a Parliamentary panel on Wednesday. Digvijaya Singh, the chairman of the panel, said that the CBSE also changed norms for scanning the answer sheets.

Ex-Reliance ADAG executive in CBI custody till tomorrow

MUMBAI, PTI: Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, ex-Group MD of Anil Ambani's Reliance Communications, personally got a Rs 1,200 crore loan sanctioned from SBI in August 2016, which remained unpaid, causing a Rs 971.25 crore loss to the bank, the CBI told a court here on Wednesday.

Terming Jhunjhunwala a central figure in the group's financial operations, the CBI claimed that funds received from banks were utilised as per his instructions, and their misuse resulted in wrongful losses.

The agency made these assertions while seeking his remand, which the court allowed till June 5.

SC seeks fresh look at Aravalli definition

Forms high-powered panel to examine Centre's report

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

AMBIGUITIES
- SC flags ambiguities in Centre's Aravalli findings
- Fresh scientific assessment ordered; panel to decide if mining allowed in Aravalli gaps
- SC says impartial opinion needed, orders report by August 31

The Supreme Court set up a high-powered expert committee to independently examine the Centre's report on the definition and delineation of the Aravalli hill range and resolve "critical ambiguities" in its findings.

The committee, headed by Kanchan Devi, Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), has been directed to submit its comprehensive report by August 31.

The development comes months after the SC stayed the implementation of an October 2025 report prepared by a committee chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

On December 29, the court had stressed the need for a fresh scientific and ecological assessment by an independent body of domain experts.

In its latest order, the court observed that a "fair, impartial and independent expert opinion" was essential, with consultation of all stakeholders, to provide clarity on contentious issues concerning the protection of the Aravalli ecosystem.

The newly formed High-Powered Committee (HPC) will be chaired ex officio by Kanchan Devi, a 1991-batch Indian Forest Service officer. The other members include Subhash Ashutosh, former Director General, Forest Survey of India; Rajendra Kumar Sharma, former Director, Geological Survey of India; Brij Mohan Singh Rathore, former Joint Secretary, Environment Ministry; and Ashok K Bhatnagar, former head, Department of Botany, Delhi University.

Jagdish Krishnaswamy of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru; and Laxmikant Sharma of the Central University of Haryana have been appointed as special invitees.

The MoEFCC has been asked to nominate a director-level officer as member secretary. The committee has been tasked with addressing several key issues flagged by the court. These include whether restricting the Aravalli definition to areas within 500 metres between hills unduly narrows the protected zone and opens the door for mining and other ecologically harmful activities.

It will also examine whether the Aravalli hills with elevations of 100 metres and above constitute a continuous ecological entity even when separated by more than 500 metres, and if mining should be permitted in such gaps.

The Aravalli range, spread across Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat, is considered one of India's most ecologically sensitive regions, playing a crucial role in groundwater recharge.

NC legislators to march in Delhi for J&K statehood

SRINAGAR, DHNS: In what could be the National Conference (NC)'s biggest political mobilisation on the issue since it assumed office, its legislators will march in New Delhi on the opening day of Parliament's Monsoon Session to press the BJP-led Central government for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)'s statehood and constitutional guarantees for its people.

The decision was taken during a meeting of NC legislators chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and senior party leaders on Wednesday. The meeting, held on the city's outskirts, resolved to intensify the NC's campaign for the restoration of J&K's constitutional and democratic rights.

NC chief spokesperson and MLA Tanvir Sadiq told reporters after the meeting that the party would take its demand directly to the national capital and seek support from political parties across the country.

Sealed windows, locked exits turn Delhi hotel into death trap

NEW DELHI, PTI

Sealed glass windows, sensor-operated gates that stopped functioning during the blaze, overcrowded rooms and violations of fire safety norms turned a hotel in Malviya Nagar on Wednesday into a death trap, leaving dozens of occupants with no escape as smoke and flames rapidly engulfed the building.

A girl reacts after being rescued from a hotel fire in New Delhi on Wednesday. AP/PTI

At least 21 people, including six foreigners, were killed, and the toll may rise as the condition of nine individuals is critical, according to officials.

According to residents, the sensor-operated entrance gate stopped working after the fire broke out, and permanently sealed windows prevented occupants from escaping or getting fresh air.

Sheikh Ali, a local resident, said the six-year-old building had more than 25 rooms, including rooms in the basement. "The doors got locked due to the fire, and the windows were permanently sealed. People inside could not come out for a long time," he said.

Residents said locals used stones and hammers to break windows and the main gate to rescue trapped occupants. Several people were seen jumping from upper floors after windows were shattered, residents said.

Another resident, Asif, claimed that the fire extinguishers available inside the building were too small to tackle a major blaze," he said. He said a blast occurred in an electrical plug after a kitchen appliance was switched off.

8 of family perish

The Gurugram residence of chartered accountant Vivek Agarwal in Gurugram lay deserted on Wednesday after almost the entire extended family was wiped out in the deadly Delhi blaze. Shocked neighbours gathered outside the empty house in Sector 46, unable to come to terms with the fact eight members of the family, including Vivek (48), his wife Tarjini (47), mother Prem Lata, and daughters Jivisa and Variya, perished in the fire.

According to relatives, Vivek had booked two rooms Malviya Nagar hotel as his father Radhe Shyam Agarwal had been undergoing treatment at the nearby hospital. He remains the last surviving member of the family.

Oh deer! CM Omar's retreat to Dachigam sanctuary triggers meme storm

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A month after Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said he wanted to "burst like a cloudburst" after Eid, it was a different kind of storm that dominated political discourse on Wednesday.

A meeting of National Conference ministers, MLAs and MPs at Dachigam National Park on the outskirts of Srinagar triggered a flood of memes and sarcastic posts on social media, with Opposition leaders turning the ruling party's retreat into a running joke.

The meeting, attended by NC legislators and allies, was convened by Abdullah to review the government's performance and discuss political and governance issues. But photographs of lawmakers travelling together in buses to the wildlife sanctuary quickly became social media fodder.

Vehicles carrying J&K leaders arrive at the Dachigam National Park in Srinagar on Wednesday. PTI

Among the first to join the banter was PDP leader Zuhaib Yousuf Mir, who revived Abdullah's own "cloudburst" remark.

The million-dollar question is — will the clouds burst over Dachigam today?, he posted on X, referring to speculation that the CM could make a major political statement at the gathering.

PDP leader Iltija Mufti took the joke a step further. Sharing a photograph of legislators seated inside a bus alongside an image of a Hangul, the endangered Kashmir stag for which Dachigam is famous, she wrote, "In Kashmir, MLAs are more endangered than Hanguls! Must designate a separate wildlife park for them."

Her post quickly gained traction, with users drawing parallels between the dwindling population of the Hangul and the shrinking political space in Kashmir.

The BJP was equally unsparing. J&K BJP spokesperson Sajid Yousuf Shah described the venue as perhaps Omar Abdullah's "most appropriate political decision".

"After all, the gathering included NC MLAs, Ministers, Black Bears, Musk Deer, Himalayan Brown Bears, Hangul, & other rare species."

He followed it up with another swipe, "Some species are struggling to survive because of nature; others because of National Conference policies."

The NC insisted the meeting was a routine review exercise. But by the end of the day, the discussions inside Dachigam had been eclipsed by the conversation outside it, with the retreat emerging as one of the most talked-about political events on Kashmiri social media this year.

IAS officer leaves press meet amid protest over death case

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: An IAS officer in Kerala left a press conference addressed by Agriculture Minister T Siddique at the Assembly Media Room on Wednesday following a protest from journalists. State agriculture director Sriram Venkitaraman is the prime accused in the 2019 death of a journalist in a crash case.

K M Basheer, journalist with a Malayalam daily, was killed after the car driven by the IAS officer crashed into his two-wheeler during the wee hours of August 3, 2019.

In a suspected bid to evade alcohol tests, the officer, who was accompanied by a female friend, fled the spot and tried to mislead the probe by stating that the woman was driving the car. He was suspended, but later reinstated. The trial in the case is set to begin in August.

June 6 protest only to demand minister's resignation: CJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Wednesday unveiled more faces of its movement by appointing three spokespersons, who held a press conference here, announcing the contours of their June 6 protest demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

The party said in an X post that investigative journalist Saurav Das would serve as its chief spokesperson, while political researcher and filmmaker Vijeta Dahiya and former management consultant Ashutosh Ranka would be spokespersons.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke clarified that the roles were offered to women, but they preferred to be involved without being at the forefront due to online attacks and threats.

Das, Dahiya, and Ranka projected the CJP as a movement seeking accountability in the system and the June 6 protest as a movement demanding only Pradhan's ouster. "We have one demand now: Pradhan should resign. The youth of the country, 1 crore affected students, will decide what's next," said Das.

Dahiya said, "We are taking one step at a time. Eight lakh people have signed our petition seeking Pradhan's resignation. Is there no value for that?"

Das said Dipke would land in Delhi at 8 am on June 6 and directly proceed to the Parliament Police Station along with supporters for permission to hold a "peaceful" protest at Jantar Mantar, the dharna hotspot in the capital. The CJP invited "people of all political shades" to join their protest, but without any party flag.

They acknowledged that the CJP started as "satire" against the system, but had outgrown it as a "movement" of the youth, as at least 1 crore students were impacted by the NEET-UG paper leak, CUET troubles, and the CBSE OSM row.

IIT Roorkee admits to privacy issue with JEE (Advanced) candidates' data

NEW DELHI, DHNS

CLOUD STORAGE
- Teenager Rylen Anil says cloud storage bucket connected to the JEE (Advanced) results system exposes candidate records, documents
- IIT Roorkee, which conducted exam, confirms issue and indicates that exposed data is in read-only environment, meaning no one can change them
- Says issue stemmed from cloud-storage configuration error, and corrective action has begun

IIT Roorkee has acknowledged a cloud-storage configuration issue linked to the JEE (Advanced) 2026 results infrastructure after a teenage cybersecurity researcher claimed personal and examination-related data of lakhs of candidates was publicly accessible online.

The issue was flagged by 16-year-old Rylen Anil, who said a publicly-accessible cloud storage bucket connected to the JEE (Advanced) results system exposed candidate records and admit card documents. According to details he shared, the storage contained nearly 1.8 lakh result records and around 1.87 lakh admit card PDF files.

The data allegedly included names, dates of birth, mobile numbers, and other personal information of candidates.

Responding to the disclosure, IIT Roorkee confirmed the issue and said it stemmed from a cloud-storage configuration error, adding that corrective action had been initiated.

The institute indicated that the exposed data was hosted in a read-only environment, meaning records could be viewed, but not modified.

Anil maintained that the incident did not appear to be the result of hacking, password breach, or an unauthorised intrusion into the system.

Instead, he described it as a cloud misconfiguration that inadvertently left the storage publicly accessible.

On X, IIT Roorkee thanked him for responsibly reporting the issue. Anil welcomed the institute's response and efforts to fix the vulnerability.

The development comes amid heightened cybersecurity safeguards in India's examination ecosystem following recent concerns raised over vulnerabilities in digital systems associated with other education bodies, including the CBSE and the National Testing Agency (NTA).

JEE (Advanced), conducted this year by IIT Roorkee, is the gateway examination for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Some of the country's top engineering aspirants appear for it each year.

DEFENCE PUSH

India set for $2-bn drone order in biggest buy: Industry body

NEW DELHI, REUTERS

India is likely to order military drones worth more than $2 billion from domestic firms this year in its biggest such purchase, an industry body working with the government told Reuters, as global and regional conflicts boost demand.

The plans are in advanced stages, with deliveries expected over 18-24 months, for a jump in value from the recent government orders worth Rs 3,000 crore ($313 million) for tactical-class drones, said Drone Federation India (DFI) president Smit Shah.

The body represents more than 550 companies and works closely with the government.

"In the next phase, tactical drone procurements in India may exceed Rs 20,000 crore, or more than $2 billion," said Shah.

He said the new orders might follow a fast-track procurement route designed to meet urgent operational needs, with deliveries probably needed within 24 months.

The Union Defence Ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the likely purchase order, which Reuters is the first to report.

India's push follows clashes with archrival Pakistan in May last year, when both sides deployed unmanned aerial vehicles at scale for the first time, highlighting the offensive potential of low-cost drones.

The conflicts in Ukraine and Iran have further sped adoption globally, driving down costs and reshaping battlefield tactics.

In March, the Defence Ministry approved a proposal worth about Rs 2.38 lakh crore ($24.85 billion) to buy transport aircraft, missile systems, and "remotely-piloted strike aircraft", or armed drones, without giving a spending breakdown.

"Drones are force multipliers on the modern battlefield," said Ramesh Chandra Padhi, an executive at IG Defence, a builder of advanced unmanned aerial and short-range missile systems.

"The Indian Army is following emergency or fast-track procurement to expedite the induction of drones on a very large scale," the former senior army officer added.

India has more than 600 firms making drones and components, with over 100 focussed on defence applications.

Denial of conjugal rights amounts to cruelty: SC

Court dissolves 18-year marriage of doctor-couple

DEAD RELATIONSHIP

- SC says persistent refusal of sex valid ground for divorce
- Marriage more than a contract; conjugal rights inseparable from duties
- Dead relationship causes agony and frustration

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has ruled that persistent denial of conjugal rights, including refusal of sexual intercourse without reasonable cause, constitutes mental cruelty and serves as a valid ground for divorce under Section 13(1)(ia) of the Hindu Marriage Act.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Augustine George Masih observed that Indian courts have consistently held that withholding sexual intimacy causes severe emotional distress and erodes the foundation of marriage.

"Marriage, in its legal and constitutional dimension, can never be reduced to a mere contractual intersection of individual rights... It is a deeply personal and social partnership built on mutual respect, shared expectations and equal responsibility," it said.

The court emphasised that conjugal rights and duties are inseparable.

"To demand the fulfilment of the former while wilfully abandoning the sanctity of the latter is to undermine the very essence of the institution," it added while upholding the Rajasthan High Court's January 2, 2025, order granting divorce to a doctor on grounds of cruelty.

The June 2 judgment came on an appeal by the wife, a gynaecologist, challenging the HC verdict that had set aside a family court order dismissing the husband's divorce petition.

The couple, both doctors, married on December 5, 2007, according to Hindu rites. The wife was employed at a government hospital in Gujarat, while the husband was posted in Rajasthan. They lived together for only two to three months during their 18-year marriage and have been separated for over 15 years. No child was born of the union.

The husband alleged that even during the brief period of cohabitation, his wife would retire early and lock her room from inside. The wife did not deny that they slept in separate rooms. "The acceptance of the ground of cruelty for the grant of divorce is, thus, correct," the SC held.

The court observed that matrimony is a shared covenant of emotional support, fidelity, and care, where rights are intertwined with duties. "Persistent withdrawal from the foundational aspects of marriage can have legal consequences in evaluating mental cruelty," it said.

Despite multiple attempts at reconciliation, the parties failed to resolve their differences.

The SC noted that the parties held strong, irreconcilable views on matrimonial life and refused to accommodate each other.

Once comrades in arms, two Naxals tie knot after surrender

GONDIA, PTI: As a former Maoist divisional committee member, Nagsu Wadde traversed the forests along the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border. Six months after surrendering and renouncing violence, he has embarked on a new chapter in life by marrying a fellow surrendered Naxal in Maharashtra's Gondia district.

This sends a strong message about the safe, respectable and happy mainstream life for former outlaws, said the Gondia Police.

Wadde, along with 10 others, laid down arms under the Maharashtra government's surrender and rehabilitation policy in November 2025.

Six months later, he has tied the knot with Shevanti Raising Pandhare (36), a resident of Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh and a former Naxal, who served as an area committee member in the Dareksa Dalam.

The 11 Naxalites, including Pandhare, are currently staying in the police colony at the local police headquarters, Karanja.

Wadde, originally from Tirlagarh in the Kanker district of Chhattisgarh, was known as 'Golu' in the Dareksa Dalam, of which his would-be wife was also a member, according to a release issued by the Gondia Police.

"Their desire to live a respectable life, start a family and build a peaceful future was the driving force behind this decision," it stated.

40 yrs later, cops trace victim based on killer's confession

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

In what could be considered a reverse probe, the Kerala Police have traced the identity of a deceased person in a 40-year-old murder case based on the confession of the accused.

Fifty-five-year-old Muhammed Ali, hailing from Vengara in Malappuram, confessed before the police last year that he had committed two murders during accidental encounters in 1986 and 1989 at Koodaranji in the suburbs of Kozhikode and at Kozhikode beach, respectively.

The police have now traced the identity of the victim in the 1986 murder, while they continue to remain in the dark about the victim in the 1989 case.

With the accused's confession regarding the 1986 murder having been proved true, the Kozhikode City Police will be stepping up the probe to unravel the mystery surrounding the 1989 murder confessed by Ali.

Although the police initially suspected that the victim in the 1986 murder was a worker from Tamil Nadu, the breakthrough came after the family of one Mohanan from Iritty in neighbouring Kannur district contacted the police. Mohanan had been missing since 1986, and a letter he sent to his family that year had been posted from Koodaranji. The family became suspicious after coming across reports of Ali's confession last year.

Ali had confessed that during an altercation with a worker at a farmland in November 1986, he pushed him into a nearby canal and fled the spot. He later came across reports that the man had been found dead in the canal.

According to police records, an unidentified body was recovered from the canal and, as it remained unclaimed, was buried. As it has been almost 40 years, police see little chance of confirming the identity through DNA tests. However, the deceased's family was able to confirm the identity from photographs of the body.

Varanasi 'anti-encroachment' drive demolishes 200-year-old mosque

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

An apparently 200-year-old mosque, which was allegedly built on railway land, was demolished during an anti-encroachment drive in Varanasi late on Tuesday night amid a massive security cover.

According to local reports, the Ajgaib Shaeed Mosque, a "kabristan" (graveyard), and a "mazar" (tomb) were among the structures demolished with the help of bulldozers for the redevelopment of the Kashi Railway Station.

The local reports said that a Hanuman Temple, which was also built on railway land, was removed as well.

The Railways had earlier given a notice to the mosque caretaker to vacate the land, which it claimed was inside the Kashi Railway Station complex. The alleged encroachment was found when the Kashi Model Station Project was launched.

The Railways plans to transform the Kashi Railway Station into an integrated transport hub with airport-like facilities.

The local reports said the demolition was undertaken after the caretaker of the mosque failed to vacate the land even after repeated notices by the railway authorities.

The mosque management had moved the court and challenged the notices, but the court ruled in favour of the Railways.

Security personnel in strength were reportedly deployed during the demolition exercise, which was carried out peacefully. The roads leading to the spot were sealed.

Local Muslims said that the mosque was 200 years old.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HARVARD RESEARCHERS SAY THAT PEOPLE WHO ALWAYS RUN LATE MIGHT ACTUALLY LIVE LONGER
HMM...
MAYBE I SHOULD CALL HARVARD AND ASK THEM IF THEY'LL PAY ME TO USE BUMSTEAD AS A GUINEA PIG!
2-23

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

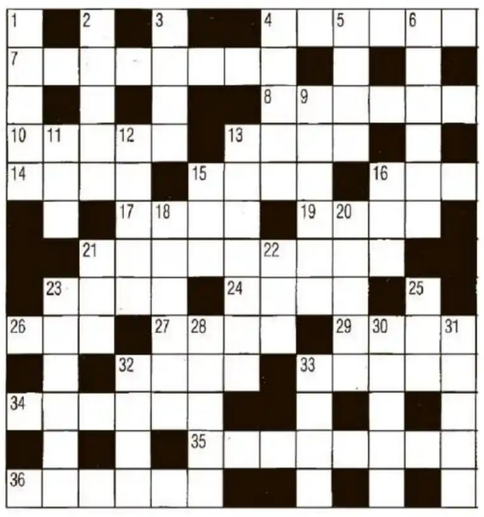
IT'S THE LATEST NEW KITCHEN APPLIANCE
GREG + MORT WALKER
WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?
A MACHINE TO DISPOSE OF ALL THAT?
MEATBALLMATIC
2110

Peanuts

I THINK IT'S AN ILLUSION THAT A WRITER NEEDS A FANCY STUDIO
A WRITER DOESN'T NEED A PLACE BY THE OCEAN OR IN THE MOUNTAINS
SOME OF OUR BEST BOOKS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN VERY HUMBLE PLACES
TYPE TYPE TYPE TYPE

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12431



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Ultimately very loud refusal (6)
7 Not much to pay to prowl around on the rink (3,5)
8 Capital letters for a feverish complaint (6)
10 Ascend note by note? (5)
13 An act defended heartlessly (4)
14 Goodbye, twins! (2-2)
15 Wherein, sheepishly, to give up playing cards? (4)
16 Name one twice (3)
17 Castor is a heavenly one (4)
19 Reason to ring? (4)
21 Marble building with government offices? (9)
23 The point at the time (4)
24 Look ñ there's an opening for an egghead! (4)
26 Furthermore comes to nothing (3)
27 The ultramarine part is ielectricí (4)
29 Uncommunicative creature? (4)
32 Have the idea the price is a quid (4)
33 Cheap fish? (5)
34 To be safe, check out the dog (6)
35 Find something compact ñ excessively! (8)
36 Nobby types (6)

DOWN
1 How to say dammit when you've got the wind up (5)
2 Personal issue of saline solution (5)
3 At liberty to make no charge (4)
4 Dance round the piano, then drive off (5)
5 Pitt the very much younger? (4)
6 Economical fur, perhaps, for the girl (6)
9 Padre upset about Charlie being Military Police (6)
11 Mechanical part of a bridge? (3)
12 Machine able to provide endless health? (5)
13 A golden part of Ireland? (7)
15 In the south of Italy, it's perfectly proper (3)
16 In poor health, the Italian left (3)
18 It's not every season that brings some new interest (6)
20 Smart version of the name (5)
21 Question of world interest? (3)
22 Performer a bit near the bone? (3)
23 Guided excessively around town (6)
25 Show a consuming interest in things (3)
28 Reads, we hear, the instrumental parts (5)
30 Grub said to come up hot! (5)
31 Like Andrew, happy as Larry (5)
32 To us, it can be useful for keeping going (4)
33 Something striking to wear? (4)

ACROSS
4 Long step or pace (6)
7 Set of letters (8)
8 Quantity (6)
10 Coil, spin (5)
13 Tot (4)
14 Locate (4)
15 Stink (4)
16 Mineral (3)
17 Man's name (4)
19 Slippery fishes (4)
21 Run off hastily (9)
23 Repose (4)
24 Opposite of bad (4)
26 Morning moisture (3)
27 Soon (4)
29 Flat (4)
32 Big cat (4)
33 First-rate (5)
34 Japanese garment (6)
35 Strap worn in a car (4,4)
36 Cut a tooth (6)

DOWN
1 Stops (5)
2 Cleave (5)
3 Boat of logs (4)
4 Gaze fixedly (5)
5 Space (4)
6 People who give blood (6)
9 Manage with limited means (4,2)
11 Toupee (3)
12 Searches (5)
13 Ten-sided figure (7)
15 Free (3)
16 Spanish cry (3)
18 Keep hold of (6)
20 Senior (5)
21 Stitch (3)
22 Mafia boss (3)
23 Resuscitate (6)
25 Jewel (3)
28 Hangman's halter (5)
30 Female fox (5)
31 Amphibians (5)
32 Plunder (4)
33 Meat paste (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12430

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, H-arrow 7, Her(-m-)itage 8, B-one 10, Hold it 11, Add-ICt. 14, Eel 16, Rules 17, Reds 19, Cop-Ed 21, Waxed 22, Hab-I-t 23, Mast 26, Shrug 28, Pal 29, Atones 30, Bertha 31, Otto (rev.) 32, Com-R-AD-es 33, Sandal.
DOWN: 1, Hit-her 2, Rhodes 3, W-h-et 4, Kind-red 5, Basil 6, Feats 8, Bled 9, Ni-L 12, Dud (rev.) 13, Cents 15, To-XIC 18, Eight 19, CAB 20, Pet 21, Wage war 22, H-un 23, (sand) Martin 24, Alto 25, Travel 26, Sa-uc-y 27, Roomy 28, P-E-t. 30, Boss.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Crease 7, Ambrosia 8, Rips 10, Closet 11, Cinema 14, Ben 16, Totes 17, Lass 19, Wager 21, Cover 22, Dowel 23, Fuse 26, Topic 28, Ten 29, Oregon 30, Sodium 31, Hoot 32, Evacuate 33, Deadly.
DOWN: 1, Cancel 2, Arises 3, East 4, Arbiter 5, As yet 6, Tapas 8, Robs 9, Pen 12, Nor 13, Means 15, Gavel 18, Abhor 19, Wow 20, Gel 21, Coconut 22, Dig 23, Fedora 24, Unit 25, Enmity 26, Tower 27, Pedal 28, Too 30, Shed.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6923 ◆

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6		4	1					
		8	5		2	6		
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4					8		5	
	1			2				

hard

SOLUTION TO 6922

7	6	1	9	2	3	5	8	4
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4	2	8	5	1	6	9	3	7
2	3	9	7	5	4	8	1	6
8	1	4	6	9	2	3	7	5
5	7	6	3	8	1	4	9	2
1	5	3	4	7	9	6	2	8
9	4	2	1	6	8	7	5	3
6	8	7	2	3	5	1	4	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Double Word Score	RACK 1
N1	Z10	E1	E1	E1	S1	S1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
S1	N1	U1	I1	M3	A1	A1		
							Double Word Score	RACK 3
C3	D2	L1	K5	W4	O1	E1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
A1	A1	S1	N1	D2	S1	E1		

PAR SCORE 135-145
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

N1	O1	I1	S1	I1	L1	Y4	RACK 1	= 70
R1	E1	G2	I1	M3	E1		RACK 2	= 9
P3	R1	E1	T1	E1	N1	D2	RACK 3	= 60
H4	E1	A1	D2	S1	E1	T1	RACK 4	= 69

PAR SCORE 135-145 JUDD'S TOTAL 208

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

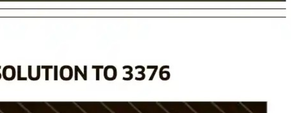
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VIHEC

OPEKR

ROAWTD

GNREVO


Today's Guest JUMBLER is GARY HALLGREN
artist for HAGAR THE HORRIBLE
I'D LIKE TO ORDER SOME FISH...
TONIGHT WE HAVE SALMON, TROUT AND PIKE!
I'D LIKE A REAL RUSSIAN DISH!
11-22
HAGAR PLAYED A JOKE AT THE RUSSIAN RESTAURANT WHEN HE ORDERED ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app · Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIANO SKIER BANNER NEGATE
Answer: On the new clerk's first day at the lingerie shop, the manager had her use a — TRAINING BRA

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HITORI-3377

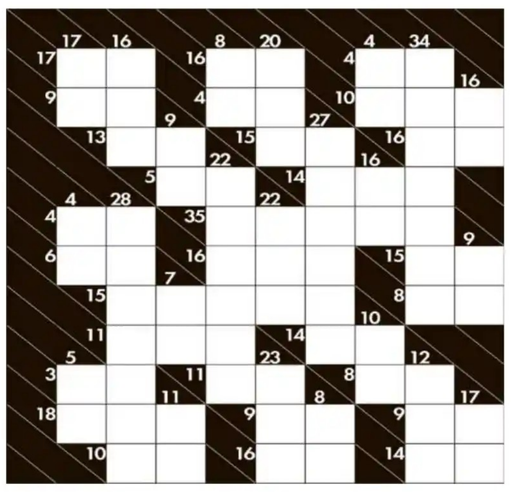
8	5	6	4	1	8	4	8
8	4	3	5	3	1	8	7
4	8	2	3	3	6	5	4
2	2	1	4	8	8	3	1
6	8	5	8	4	7	8	3
5	3	3	2	7	6	6	8
8	7	3	6	5	4	1	5
7	1	8	8	5	3	8	4

SOLUTION TO 3376

■	1	5	4	8	6	■	3
1	3	2	■	6	8	7	5
■	8	1	7	■	3	■	4
5	6	4	■	7	■	8	■
4	■	3	8	5	1	2	7
3	2	7	5	1	4	6	■
2	■	8	■	4	■	5	6
■	7	6	1	■	5	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3377



SOLUTION TO 3376

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3936

■	2		9	3	7	1		■
	■			4			■	
		■		5		■		
			■		■			
2				■		6		
			■	1	■			
5		■			4	■		
8	1		6	7		2	■	
9		6			8			3

SOLUTION TO 3935

9	2	3	7	8	1	4	6	5
1	6	7	5	9	4	8	2	3
4	5	8	3	2	6	9	1	7
3	4	9	1	6	8	7	5	2
6	7	2	9	3	5	1	4	8
5	8	1	4	7	2	3	9	6
8	9	6	2	4	7	5	3	1
2	1	4	8	5	3	6	7	9
7	3	5	6	1	9	2	8	4

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

FBI personnel fatally shoot man holding hostages in Bakersfield

BAKERSFIELD, AP/PTI: A man holding hostages inside a building in California that houses a bank branch and school district office has been shot and killed by the FBI, police said Wednesday.

The suspect was killed in "an officer-involved shooting involving Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel," the Bakersfield Police Department said in a statement. The standoff ended about 12 hours after police were called to the building, police said.

The standoff in downtown Bakersfield began Tuesday afternoon when officers responded to a call of a bomb threat at the Chase Bank building. Bakersfield Police said the man barricaded himself inside with several people. Two were released Tuesday after negotiations with authorities.

Nearby buildings, including City Hall and the police headquarters, were evacuated and some roads were temporarily closed during the hostage situation. Officers established a perimeter around the area and warned the public to stay away.

Deadly drone strike on Kuwait airport as Iran, US trade fire

Indian national killed, 63 wounded in attack on airport terminal

KUWAIT CITY, AFP

An Iranian drone strike on a passenger terminal at Kuwait's international airport killed an Indian national and wounded 63 people on Wednesday, as conflict escalated between Tehran and US forces in the Gulf.

The attacks constitute one of the most severe tests yet of a fragile April 8 ceasefire that paused more than a month of war sparked by the US-Israeli bombing of Iran and has largely held despite sporadic strikes. Kuwait's military dubbed the strike on the airport an act of "criminal Iranian aggression", while the foreign ministry condemned it for having "once again targeted vital and civilian infrastructure".

Iran's Revolutionary Guards accused US forces of provoking the strikes by targeting a tanker and a communications tower on the country's Qeshm Island. India's foreign ministry confirmed that one of its nationals was killed and several others were wounded in the attack. "We again call upon parties to cease such attacks," it said.

Kuwaiti health ministry said 63 people were treated for injuries, "including head wounds, cerebral haemorrhages, amputations and injuries resulting from explosions". Kuwait suspended air traffic and diverted arriving planes to other destinations, but later resumed Kuwait Airways flights. The Gulf nation said it detected 30 ballistic missiles and drones launched on Wednesday during the "Iranian aggression".

In response, it demanded that two Iranian embassy staff leave the country within 24 hours, denying Iranian claims that Kuwaiti territory and airspace had been used to attack Iran.

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Abdullah al-Sabah (2nd right) inspects the damaged airport following an Iranian attack in Kuwait City on Wednesday. Kuwait has asked two Iranian embassy officials to leave the country within 24 hours in response to the attack. AFP

Iran's chief negotiator vows 'decisive' response

TEHRAN, AFP: Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said that Tehran would meet any attack with a strong response, after its Revolutionary Guards said they had targeted Kuwait in retaliation for US attacks.

"Today, the Iranian nation, in its battle with America and the Zionist regime, showed that the era of free-of-charge Iran threats is over and that any aggression will be met with a decisive, regrettable, and proportionate response," Ghalibaf said.

Trump confirms calling Netanyahu 'crazy'

WASHINGTON, JUNE 3 (REUTERS): US President Donald Trump acknowledged calling Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "crazy" in an expletive-filled phone exchange over fighting in Lebanon, while the US was trying to negotiate a deal with Iran.

In an interview broadcast on Wednesday, Trump was asked whether he had called the longtime Israeli leader "crazy". "I did," Trump told the "Pod Force One" podcast. "I was a little bit perturbed at his constantly fighting with Lebanon." Trump went on to say he and Netanyahu get along very well.

Netanyahu said his relationship with Trump had not changed. "We have common goals. Sometimes we have, as in the best of families, you have these tactical disagreements," he told CNBC on Wednesday.

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Chandra Kumari R
W/O Wilhelm Sahadev
DOB: 24-02-1947
Passed away at 02:27 PM IST on 03-06-2026 Burial will be at Mysore Christian Cemetery at 04:00 PM IST on 04-06-2026.
Please contact :
Kiran Sahadev - 9845775970

Over two lakh applicants paid $1,00,000 for H-1B visas

WASHINGTON, PTI

More than two lakh applicants opted to pay $1,00,000 for their H-1B visas to work in the US in fiscal year 2026, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said.

Testifying before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday, Mullin said the DHS had received about 2.86 lakh H-1B applications in fiscal year 2026. "We had 286,000 applicants year-to-date for the H-1B visas. Out of those, over 200,000 of them paid $1,00,000 to be able to come in because it allows us to process them in a little bit faster manner," Mullin said in response to a question from Senator Susan Collins on the shortage of doctors in rural parts of the country.

Mullin said applicants paying $1,00,000 get their papers processed in about 15 days, while it takes about 7.5 months to process other applications. Collins told the subcommittee that a hospital in Presque Isle in Maine, recently had to pay the fee to secure a surgeon from overseas. She said medical service providers serving remote areas should be treated differently from employers recruiting highly skilled workers in sectors with larger domestic labour pools.

Nepal National Assembly adjourned over PM's border remarks

KATHMANDU, PTI: The Upper House of Nepal's Parliament was adjourned on Wednesday after opposition lawmakers continued their protest against Prime Minister Balendra Shah's remarks on the Himalayan nation's border issues with India.

National Assembly Chairman Narayan Prasad Dahal adjourned the House until 1.15 pm on June 9, according to the Parliament Secretariat.

Parliament proceedings have been repeatedly disrupted since Shah, who is popularly known as Balen, said on Sunday that "Not only India, but Nepal has also encroached territories of India at many places". His comments sparked controversy.

In his remarks, Balen also suggested, without elaborating, that India and Nepal had agreed to seek help from historians, surveyors and experts to reach a resolution. He added that Kathmandu had also taken up the matter with China and the United Kingdom.

SAD DEMISE

HARENDRA M R
11.01.1971 - 03.06.2026
Son of Late **Sri T.M Rajakumar** SEE (Rtd), KPTCL
Grandson of **Late Sri T Mariappa,** Ex Finance Minister of Karnataka
Cremation on 05.06.2026
at Wilson Garden Burial Ground after 12 pm.
Deeply Mourned By
Ravi, Bhanu & Family members
Mob: 9845694416 / 9972777511

Ukraine hits St Petersburg oil terminal

Attack comes as city hosts major economic forum

KYIV, AP/PTI

Ukrainian long-range drones struck an oil terminal in St Petersburg and set it ablaze, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Wednesday, as the Russian city hosts an annual international economic forum that is a flagship event for President Vladimir Putin.

The drones flew more than 1,000 kilometres to hit the terminal, Zelenskyy said on social media. Clouds of black smoke rose over the city's port after the attack. St Petersburg is Russia's second-largest city and the birthplace of Putin.

Russian authorities said only that the Ukrainian drone strike targeted the city's infrastructure, without providing further details. St Petersburg airport briefly suspended flights overnight because of the attack. Authorities also cut off mobile internet services.

With the front line changing little as swarms of drones hinder battlefield movement, both sides have sought an advantage by increasingly launching long-range strikes.

The latest strikes are an embarrassment for Putin, weeks after he scaled back the annual Victory Day parade in Moscow because of fears of Ukrainian drone attacks. Putin is due to speak on Friday at the economic forum.

The gathering has for decades been Russia's leading event for attracting foreign capital. It is sometimes called Russia's Davos, in reference to the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland.

Police officers walk in front of banners with branding for the St Petersburg International Economic Forum as black smoke rises in distance in St Petersburg on Wednesday. AFP

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DIRECT RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following positions in Dakshina Kannada Growers Organic Collective Farmer Producer Company Limited, a company registered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The company is expanding its operations and opening new branches at Bangalore, Hassan, Mysore, Shivamogga, Mangalore, Moodbidri, Kundapura, Surathkal, Karkala, Udupi.Available Positions* Manager* Assistant Manager* Cash Officer* Loan Officer* Customer Service Officer* Field Collection Officer Total Vacancies : 65 Positions Salary 18,500 to 45,000 per month (based on qualification and experience) Employee Benefits* ESI* PF Eligibility Candidates from all districts of Karnataka are eligible to apply. Last Date for Application 20-06-2026 Contact*S. Satish Nayak* +91 99804 96533 +91 94486 27226. Interested candidates are requested to apply on or before the last date.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

UN report warns of AI's growing footprint

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

The environmental footprint of data centres already rivals that of some of the world's largest countries, according to a United Nations University report, which also predicts their water and energy use and pollution will double in just four years as the use of artificial intelligence grows.

Last year, global data centres used 448 trillion watt-hours of electricity, more than all but 10 countries in the world, according to the report issued on Wednesday.

That electricity use produced about 208 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, roughly the same amount as Argentina, and generating that much energy consumed about 4.5 trillion litres of water, according to the report on the environmental consequences of AI's energy use.

By 2030, data centres will account for nearly 3% of the world's projected electricity use, consuming 935 trillion watt-hours. If data centres were a country, they would be projected to rank sixth in global power consumption by 2030. That would produce nearly 440 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, the report said.

The study focused on energy use and did not examine the massive amount of water used directly to cool data centres.

"If you look at these numbers, we're seeing scales comparable to nations," said study co-author Kaveh Madani, a water scientist and director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health in Canada. "The demand is enormous." Much of the growth in data centres is being driven by AI. About 20% of data centres' energy use is currently attributable to AI, but that figure is expected to grow to 40% by 2030, the report said.

British Sikh man's trial: Violent protest against police

LONDON, PTI

A British Sikh man's conviction for the murder of a teenager triggered violent clashes directed at police in the UK after body-worn camera footage showed officers handcuffing the victim in his final moments following an allegation of racism.

Large crowds descended on Southampton on Tuesday evening as officers from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary lined up in riot gear near the home of Vickrum Digwa, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for stabbing 18-year-old Henry Nowak to death.

Officers were pelted with bricks and bottles as protesters heard from anti-immigration activists who condemned what they described as "two-tier policing", or the prioritisation of one community over another.

"There are serious questions to answer, including how accusations of racism informed police thinking, and we're supporting the IOPC (Independent Office for Police Conduct) to get to the bottom of what happened," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told the House of Commons on Wednesday.

"But no matter the pain we feel, there is no justification for more violence and disorder. The attacks directed towards police officers in Southampton last night were disgraceful and completely unacceptable.

"This is a time for serious work, not rage. And let me be clear, we will ensure anyone found engaging in disorder meets the full force of the law, as we have done before," he said.

Hampshire Police Chief Constable Alexis Boon said 11 officers and a police dog sustained injuries during the clashes, which sparked "fear and division" in the community.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Members of German emergency services exercise for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents hold a drill during ResConEx'26 in Cologne on Wednesday. REUTERS

Indian-origin woman wins major settlement in 23-yr divorce case

▸ An Indian-origin woman, whose 23-year divorce battle has been dubbed one of the longest in UK legal history, has won a 6.6 million pounds settlement after a High Court judgment, PTI reports from London.

Varsha Gohil filed for divorce in May 2002 and, after accepting an initial modest settlement, became aware of assets her lawyer-husband, Bhadresh Gohil, had failed to declare. Her legal pursuit was interrupted by a money-laundering investigation, which led to Bhadresh being sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2010 in connection with a corruption case involving a client in Nigeria. While the UK Crown Prosecution Service pursued a Confiscation Order over funds of nearly 28 million pounds associated with the husband's criminal activity, the ex-wife's legitimate share in the untainted "marital pool" of the funds remained unresolved.

Trump to attend Nato summit

▸ US President Donald Trump will attend the Nato summit in Turkey in July, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday, amid lingering questions about Washington's commitment to the security alliance, AFP reports from Washington.

"The President himself will be attending the next Nato meeting of heads of state, where all these points will be made clear," Rubio told the House Foreign Affairs Committee, referring to the July 7-8 conference in the Turkish capital. "We're still in Nato, but Nato needs significant changes."

A researcher examines the mummified remains of Otzi, a man whose body was preserved in glacial ice for more than 5,300 years, at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano, Italy. Researchers have found that prehistoric gut bacteria and cold-adapted yeast strains remain metabolically active inside Otzi's body. REUTERS FILE

Nasa declares Mars Maven dead

▸ After six months of radio silence, Nasa's Maven spacecraft at Mars has been declared dead, AP/PTI reports from Cape Canaveral.

The space agency confirmed Wednesday that the mission had ended after more than a decade of observations. Launched in 2013 to study the red planet's atmosphere from orbit, Maven mysteriously fell silent in early December after passing behind Mars. Data indicated the spacecraft went into a fast spin, which disrupted its orbit and drained the onboard batteries. A review board convened by Nasa earlier this year concluded that the spacecraft is useless and unable to be recovered. An investigation continues into what caused the problem.

Jill Biden regrets silence on son

▸ Jill Biden said she's sorry she didn't talk more about her son Hunter's drug addiction during her time in the White House, AP/PTI reports from New York.

In an interview with "The View" co-host Whoopi Goldberg to promote her White House memoir, the former first lady said on Tuesday that she had put life in perspective after her husband, former President Joe Biden, was diagnosed with prostate cancer. She said she is no longer angry about the way Democrats pressured her husband to end his re-election bid.

US director Steven Spielberg and actress Emily Blunt pose upon arrival for the premiere of "Disclosure Day" at the Grand Rex in Paris on Tuesday. AFP

Biz Bytes

Kirloskar Electric elevates Janaki Kirloskar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kirloskar Electric Company Limited has announced the appointment of Janaki Kirloskar as Joint Managing Director and Additional Director, effective May 26, 2026, subject to shareholder approval.

Janaki has been serving as Chief Executive Officer since February 2026.

She brings over two decades of experience across manufacturing, business operations, and entrepreneurship.

Wipro CEO Srinivas Pallia earns Rs 49.6 cr in FY26

BENGALURU, DHNS: Wipro Chief Executive Officer and Managing Dirctor Srinivas Pallia took home about Rs 49.6 crore ($5.29 million) in FY26, according to the IT services firm's latest 20-F filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Srinivas Pallia

This is a 7% decline, compared to Rs 53.4 crore in FY25. His salary and allowances stood at $1.65 million, commission and variable pay were $1.05 million and $2.47 million in other benefits.

Wipro Executive Chairman Rishad Premji's total compensation declined to Rs 7.3 crore ($773,213) in FY26. Premji's remuneration more than doubled from Rs 6.4 crore in FY24 to about Rs 13.7 crore ($1.6 million) in FY25, due to increase in the company's net profit.

Pallia's total compensation is lower than Infosys Chief Executive Officer and Managing Dirctor Salil Parekh's compensation of Rs 82.6 crore, but higher than TCS CEO and MD K Krithivasan's remuneration of Rs 28 crore in FY26.

US announces new tariffs on India, others for 'forced labour' use

India engaged with US on the matter, says Commerce Ministry

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) on Wednesday announced imposition of additional tariffs ranging from 10% to 12.5% on imports from India and other economies for alleged use of forced labour, even as senior trade officials from the two countries met in New Delhi to advance talks on the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

The Trump administration has announced imposition of new tariffs, following investigation under Section 301 of the US Trade Act, 1974, which authorises the American government to act against foreign policies or practices that it views as unfair or harmful to its trade and commercial interests.

The USTR has proposed imposition of additional tariffs on imports from 60 economies, including India, China, Bangladesh, Brazil, Sri Lanka, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the UK.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi government said it "remains engaged with the US on the matter as a part of Section 301 proceedings".

"India is also parallelly engaged with the US for finalisation of a framework agreement as was announced on February 2, 2026, and in accordance with the joint statement released on February 7, 2026," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement.

The development comes at a time when senior officials from India and the US are engaged in talks to finalise the first tranche of the proposed BTA.

The two countries have already agreed on a framework for an interim agreement. This was announced through a joint statement issued on February 7.

Top officials from India and the US have announced that the first tranche of the India-US trade deal would be signed very soon.

Speaking at an event in Mumbai on Wednesday, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, said India and the US have resolved 99% of the issues concerning the interim trade deal.

"We are very hopeful that the deal will get accomplished over the next weeks, several weeks. But it's not going to be years. We're very close to getting that done," Gor added.

While the USTR has proposed imposition of additional tariffs, it has not yet been finalised.

The proposal has now entered the consultation phase. Interested parties can submit requests to appear at hearings and summaries of testimony by June 22, 2026, while written comments are due by July 6. USTR is scheduled to hold hearings on July 7.

A final decision is expected in late June or July, potentially before the expiry of the temporary 10% tariffs on July 24, 2026. Once finalised, the tariffs could take effect almost immediately.

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said the USTR investigation is not based on allegations that Indian exports are produced using forced labour. Rather, the USTR action focuses on whether countries prohibit imports made with forced labour in third countries.

"India must argue that the US is attempting to impose its preferred import-control framework on other countries through unilateral trade measures, this is outside the scope of Section 301," Srivastava said.

India may also argue that concerns regarding forced labour, particularly in countries such as China, are often product-specific and that the US itself remains a major importer of many of the products at issue. Hence, broad country-wide tariff actions are an inappropriate response when problems could be limited to a few products, he added.

TRADE DIALOGUE

Tariff push: US proposes 10-12.5% tariffs on imports from India and 59 other economies.

Talks progress: India-US trade talks continue, with officials saying most issues are resolved

Review stage: The tariff proposal is under consultation before a final decision.

India engaged: India is contesting the move while continuing trade agreement negotiations.

"We are very hopeful that the deal will get accomplished over the next weeks, several weeks. But it's not going to be years. We're very close to getting that done."

Sergio Gor
US Ambassador to India

Cabinet approves Rs 10k cr jet fuel stabilisation fund

Move to ease airline cost pressures amid West Asia conflict

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

FARE FLIGHT

- Fund to offset losses to OMCs caused by sharp ATF price spikes
- To help carriers manage higher fuel costs from longer routes caused by Pakistan airspace closure
- Aims to reduce fare volatility, sustain connectivity, and support tourism and trade

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday cleared a one-time budgetary support of Rs 10,000 crore for Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to provide ATF price stabilisation to domestic airlines for operations, including on international routes, following price fluctuations due to the West Asia crisis.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the ATF Price Stabilisation Fund will help airlines in the backdrop of a rise in prices of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) due to the conflict and airspace closure by Pakistan.

Providing details of the fund after a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vaishnaw said a great deal of effort, consultation, and deliberation went into developing the solution.

The budgetary support will be in the form of interest-free advances to OMCs to facilitate stable ATF pricing during the ongoing period of exceptional fuel price volatility arising from the West Asia crisis. The corpus will compensate OMCs for losses arising from elevated international ATF prices whenever the prevailing Import Parity Price (IPP) exceeds the benchmark price determined under the approved mechanism.

Vaishnaw said that due to the ongoing crisis, international ATF prices have surged nearly 2.5 times from Rs 60.50/litre in March 2026, to Rs 142/litre in May 2026, and this volatility has resulted in high-cost pressure on airline financials.

"While ATF price has been capped for domestic operations, Indian carriers continue to purchase ATF for international operations at IPP, exposing them to elevated fuel costs... Closure of the Pakistan airspace for Indian carriers has resulted in longer flight paths to Europe, North America, and Central Asia, increasing fuel burn and operational costs," he said.

An official statement said the mechanism provides greater predictability in fuel costs by adopting a fixed-price arrangement for domestic and international operations. This reduces airlines' exposure to sudden fuel price spikes and enables better operational and financial planning, it said.

"It will also shield the OMCs from losses arising from volatile and elevated ATF prices during the ongoing crisis. The measure will help protect and sustain domestic and international air connectivity, ensuring continuity of air services," it said.

Under the one-time arrangement, participating airlines will procure ATF only from OMCs for up to three years, subject to annual review or until the advance amount is fully-recovered, whichever is earlier.

Services PMI rises to 6-month high on strong domestic demand

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's services sector growth accelerated to a six-month high in May, driven by strong domestic demand, even as external demand remained subdued amid geopolitical tensions, as per an industry survey data released by S&P Global on Wednesday.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for services rose 59.8 in May, from 58.8 recorded in the previous month.

India Services PMI Business Activity Index—based on a single question asking how the level of business activity compares with the situation the month before — signalled the strongest rate of expansion since last November, S&P Global said in its monthly report, which is based on a survey conducted among around 400 firms.

Services PMI has rebounded sharply after slipping to a 14-month low of 57.5 in March. A PMI reading above 50 signals an expansion in the sector, whereas a value below 50 indicates contraction.

Strengthening demand for services such as freight, digital solutions, e-commerce, entertainment and IT boosted new business growth during May.

"India's services PMI signalled an expansion in business activity in May, supported by a continued rise in new business," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

According to the survey, output growth during the month under review was boosted by healthy demand conditions, new client wins and ongoing improvements in new business intakes.

India's physical stock of gold steady at 880.52 tonnes: RBI

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's physical stock of gold remains steady at 880.52 tonnes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Wednesday dismissing a media report which claimed that the central bank had sold reserves worth around $12 billion to protect foreign currency assets.

"The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come across reports in certain sections of the media about RBI's sale of gold. The RBI emphasises that these reports are not correct," the central bank said in a statement.

The RBI's clarification on gold holdings came after news agency *Bloomberg* reported that the RBI likely sold gold reserves worth roughly $12 billion in the two weeks through May 22, while buying $7.5 billion of foreign-currency assets. *Bloomberg* has claimed that its analysis is based on publicly available data.

The RBI clarified that physical stock of gold is disclosed in its Monthly Bulletin. As part of the clarification note, the central bank shared its latest monthly bulletin report, which was released on May 22.

This monthly bulletin shows India's foreign exchange reserves data until the week ended April 24.

The report shows that the volume of India's gold reserves stood at 880.34 tonnes during the week ended March 20, and it remained at the same level in the week ended March 27.

It increased marginally to 880.52 tonnes during the week ended April 3 and remained unchanged for the next three weeks until the week ended April 24.

While the RBI's monthly bulletin shows gold reserves data until April 24, the *Bloomberg* news report claims about the reduction in reserves during the two weeks through May 22.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 7

Corrigendum No. 7 for Tender Notice No.: DY.CEE/CON/RE-II/MLG/01/2026; **dtd.:** 04-02-2026 **against Tender No.** EL-CON-MLG-09-2025-26-D-K.

SN	Website Tender Notice detail before corrigendum, **EXISTING**	After the corrigendum in suppression of previous details, **TO BE READ AS**
1	**Closing of Tender:-** 15-06-2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Physical submission of Mandatory Document listed in clause 2.11.2:-** 19-06-2026, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of tender**:- 22-06-2026, 16:00 hrs	**CANCELLED**

N.B.: Other terms and conditions of tender will remain same. For Detail please visit N.F. Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. CEE/CON/HQ, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

THE KARNATAKA STATE CRICKET ASSOCIATION
M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Cubbon Road, Bangalore-560001

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka State Cricket Association, M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Cubbon Road, Bangalore, invites sealed tenders from GST Compliant, registered class II and above KPWD/CPWD/Equivalent contractors for the balance work of formation of ground at Davangere Cricket Ground
The details of issue/submission of tender document are as follows :-

1.	Name of work	Balance work of formation of ground at Davangere Cricket Ground
2.	Estimated Cost	Rs.82,53,555/- plus GST
3.	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.83,000/- should be enclosed in the Technical bid cover
4.	Cost of tender form	Rs.10,000/- plus GST (Non Refundable)
5.	Date of issue of tender form	05/6/2026 to 20/6/2026
6.	Pre-bid meeting	22/6/2026 at 4.30 p.m
7.	Last date of submission of filled tender form two covers bid system (Technical & Commercial Separately)	24/6/2026 before 5.00 p.m
8.	Opening of the tender If any delay will be intimated to the vendors.	The same day at 5.30 p.m.
9.	Completion of work by	150 days from the date of work order.

Tender documents may be obtained from the Office of the KSCA, by submitting a requisition in the company's letter head between 11.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m on any working days. For any clarification please contact Mr.H.A.Venkatesprasad, AGM Civil Engineering Dept, Mobile No. 9945604515

(Chief Executive Officer)
KSCA

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Zonal Contract for up-keepment of building and structures, water pipe line connections and water treatment plants and GM Bunglow at 8, Belvedere Park, Officers Flat at 90, Chowringhee Road, 6, Ramesh Mitra Road & 200X, S.P.Mukherjee Road, Officers Rest House and Officers club at Tollygunge, Staff quarters at 98, ATM Road, Tollygunge Block 'A', Block 'B', Block 'C', 47, DPS Road, 24A, DPS Road, Fire station, TA Quarters, RPF Barrack at Tollygunge and Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital along with water treatment installations, Fire Hydrants, pipe line work etc. of Metro Railway, Kolkata upto June 2028. **Approx Cost of Work**: ₹ 2,07,87,855/-, **Earnest Money**: ₹ 4,15,800/-. **Completion Period:** Twenty Four (24) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 25.06.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Amendments/ Corrigendum,if any, would be hosted only on the website.
Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2577-2026 (Open)
Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Signal & Telecom Branch / Tiruchchirappalli Division)
E-Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-3-2026-2027 Dt: 02.06.2026.
The Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli Division invites online tender on behalf of The President of India, for the following works **up to 14.00 hrs on 24.06.2026**

Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work
1.	T-SG-36-I-3-2026-2027	Provision of Integrated Passenger Information System (IPIS) at Tiruchchirappalli Junction (TPJ) station.

Item No.	Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees	Earnest Money Deposit Amt	Validity Offer	Closing Date and Time	Period of Completion in months
1.	Rs.435.11 Lakhs	Rs.8,70,200.00/-	60 Days	on 24.06.2026 @14:00 Hrs	Six Months

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.
The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in/**
GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer,
Signal & Telecom Branch, Tiruchchirappalli - 620001 Tamil Nadu.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 14 May 2026

S.O.2527(E). - In exercise of the powers conferred by sub- Section (1) of Section 20A of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government (Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the Schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, namely. "Construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. 10 at KM: 10/900 - 11/000 between Nayandahalli and Kengeri stations (Valagerahalli-Village, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru District)" in the District of Bengaluru in the state of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bengaluru and arbitrator namely Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru for the execution of the Special Railway Project, namely "Construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. 10 at KM: 10/900 - 11/000 between Nayandahalli and Kengeri stations (Valagerahalli- Village, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru District)" in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the stretch of land from Km:10/900 to Km:11/000 in the district of Bengaluru in the state of Karnataka.

State: Karnataka **Taluk: Bengaluru South**
District: Bengaluru **Village: Valagerahalli**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot No.	Type of Land	Nature of land	Area (in local units)	Area (in Hectares)
1	69	Dry	Private	0G-1.26An	0.0040
2	71	Dry	Private	3G-0.21An	0.1532
3	72	Dry	Private	9G-0.47An	0.4593
4	78	Dry	Private	0G-1.26An	0.0040
		Total		**12G-3.20An**	**0.6205**

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727
(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/176/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF HERITAGE
Deemed to be University under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India
A-19, institutional Area, Sector 62, Noida 201 309

ADMISSIONS NOTIFICATION: 2026-2027
Master of Arts (M.A.) Programmes

About the Institute

Established under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the Indian Institute of Heritage (IIH) stands as a premier institution dedicated exclusively to the study, preservation, and promotion of the nation's cultural and civilisational legacy. Known for its interdisciplinary approach and strong academic foundation, IIH combines classroom learning with practical field experience to prepare future professionals in Art History, Conservation Museology, Archaeology, Paleography, Epigraphy and Numismatics and other related fields.

Programmes Offered

- **M.A. in History of Art**
- **M.A. in Art Conservation**
- **MA. in Museology**
- **M.A. in Archaeology**
- **M.A. in Palaeography, Epigraphy & Numismatics**

Duration: Two-year full-time programmes (Four semesters)

Admission Procedure:
Common Entrance Admission Test (Conducted in 12 cities across the country, followed by an online personal interview)
Application Deadline: Online Application Deadline: July 3, 2026
Contact: Email: **admission@iih.ac.in;**
Telephone: +91 (0) 120 2975 617

Apply online at www.nmi.gov.in
For more information, please visit Institute's website: www.nmi.gov.in

CBC 09103/11/0001/2627

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 02/RWP/Engg/2026-27/WT/(Open), Date 30.05.2026. The Dy.CE/RWP/Bela for and on behalf of the President of India, invites Online **"e-Open Tender"** through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. for the following works as detailed: 1. Name of the work and Location, Approximate cost, Earnest money and Completion period of the work. **Tender No.**: 04_RWP_Engg_26_27_WT_Open. **Name of Work:** Provision of new bin at Melt shop at RWP/Bela. **Approximate cost:** Rs. 2,71,50,234/- **Tender form Cost:** Nil. **Earnest money:** Rs. 5,43,000/- **Completion period of the work:** 05 Months. **Tender closing date and time:** 23.06.2026 upto 14:30 Hrs. **Tender No.**: 05_RWP_Engg_26_27_WT_Open. **Name of Work:** Improvement of working spaces in plant, Ancillary buildings, store depot and staff amenity buildings at RWP/Bela. **Approximate cost:** Rs. 6,47,94,765/- **Tender form Cost:** Nil. **Earnest money:** Rs. 12,95,900/- **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months. **Tender closing date and time:** 30.06.2026 upto 14:30 Hrs.. **Tender No.**: 06_RWP_Engg_26_27_WT_Open. **Name of Work:** Development of scrap yard at RWP/Bela. **Approximate cost:** Rs. 7,73,33,262/- **Tender form Cost:** Nil. **Earnest money:** Rs. 15,46,700/- **Completion period of the work:** 18 Months. **Tender closing date and time:** 23.06.2026 upto 14:30 Hrs. 2. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be obtained and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc: The above tender can be submitted only by the date and time as mentioned in the notice. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.
Dy. Chief Engineer/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2026-27/28

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

DRM/ENGG, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-WEST-26-27-12, Date: 02.06.2026. Name of work:** Execution of Cess Repair and other miscellaneous work under the Jurisdiction of Sr.DEN (West)/ Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 4,77,52,781.14. **EMD:** ₹ 9,55,100. **Date of Opening:** 24.06.2026. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-WEST-26-27-13, Date: 02.06.2026. Name of work:** Yard improvement work under the jurisdiction of SSE/P.Way/Jharsuguda. **Tender Value:** ₹ 20,92,85,712.62. **EMD:** ₹ 41,85,700. **Date of Opening:** 25.06.2026. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-13, Date:02.06.2026. Name of work:** Improvement of staff quarters by providing individual OH Tank, Pipe Line, Floor Tiles and other misc. works under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Sett/Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,39,05,391.49. **EMD:** ₹ 4,78,100. **Date of Opening:** 30.06.2026. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each). The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/ bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority– Railway Board's letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-268)**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **M/s M.M. Creations** (Through its Auth. Sign./Partners **Raju M & Lokesh R.P.**), **R/o** 44, 1st Floor, 7th Main J.C. Industrial Layout Yelerhanahitis, Bangalore-560062, **Also at:** 3384 Chahdra Nagar, Kumarshamy Layout Bangalore South, **Also at:** No. 44, 2nd Floor, 7th Main JC Industrial Atra Konakapura Part City, Bangalore State Karnatka-560062, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Case Reg. No. 440/22, U/S 138 NI Act, PS North Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);
Proclamation is hereby made that **M/s M.M. Creations** (Through its Auth. Sign./Partners **Raju M & Lokesh R.P.**), the said accused of **Case Reg. No. 440/22, U/S 138 NI Act, PS North Rohini, Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.07.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Ebbani Aggarwal
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03,
North-West, Court No. 107, 1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/7093/RD/20256
(Court Matter)

Ahead of World Environment Day, Spectrum highlights afforestation, nature education and community-led conservation efforts in the state

Rooted in green action

In Gubbi, building a living corridor

Geeta and Yatish create environmental awareness at a school near Gubbi.

DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI

A decade ago, the road between Hallenahalli and Yalachihalli in Gubbi taluk had far fewer trees than it does today. Many of the mature trees that once lined the stretch had been cut down over the years. Even plantation drives by the forest department fell short, as saplings struggled to survive without sustained care.

For Geeta (37) and Yatish (47), farmers and friends from the area, the changing landscape was difficult to accept. They had grown up under the trees and carried memories tied to them.

"Our first step was to assess the problem," recalls Yatish. "With inputs from two friends working on sustainable farming, we began a tree census in and around the two villages."

The findings were revealing. The number of trees with a girth of over three feet was alarmingly low. The problem, they realised, was not the lack of plantation drives but poor survival.

So, the duo approached farmers, encouraging them to plant trees along field boundaries, but the response was lukewarm. So, they decided to take the lead themselves.

Instead of starting fresh, they focused on reviving existing plantations. Along the Kadaba–K G Temple Road, forest department saplings were struggling, prompting them to dig trenches and mulch the soil to improve moisture retention. Gradually, the saplings recovered, and today the stretch stands greener, serving as a model for others.

In 2016, they joined hands with the social forestry division of the Forest Department to plant around 1,000 saplings of native species such as neem, mahogany, tamarind and fig along a 10-km stretch and at nearby sites.

Once a sapling is planted in a public space, the Forest Department has to look after it for three years. But it often faces a shortage of human resources for the task. Geeta and Yatish filled that gap in this area. They cared for the plants without any remuneration.

But they soon realised that protecting trees required more than water and soil.

"Saving roadside trees is the toughest part," says Geeta. "Most trees are cut for infrastructure works while some are lopped for cattle feed." To address that challenge, they turned to awareness. And they chose to start with children.

The two began visiting schools and speaking to students about tree care. Soon, the topics expanded to include reducing plastic use, conserving water and adopting environmentally responsible habits. In parallel, Yatish and Geeta spent time learning from experts to deepen their own understanding of environmental issues. Yatish converted part of his three-acre farm into a space housing rare plant species.

They then began planting native trees in government school campuses and launched a programme called Tree Friend under which each student was assigned a tree to care for.

"The trees planted by Geeta and Yatish have transformed our school campus into a mini forest," says Chennabasappa, a teacher at Dasarakallahalli School.

During summer, he says, they devised simple ways to keep saplings alive. Discarded plastic bottles were used for slow watering, while mulching helped reduce evaporation.

Motivating students

Their work soon spread to eight to ten schools across the region. In 2019, they formed Hakki Pakka Balaga, a group with 15 to 20 high school students who helped maintain plantations and participate in environmental campaigns. Motivated by the duo, the students also became active messengers of conservation in their communities. A YouTube channel followed, where children uploaded videos about environmental practices and lessons they had learnt.

"Though aware of organic farming, my parents believed chemical fertilisers gave better yields. After Geeta and Yatish taught us to make organic manure from arecanut waste, I persuaded them to try it for ragi and vegetables. The yield, to their surprise, matched that of chemical fertilisers," says Omkar, a degree student associated with Hakki Pakka Balaga since his high school days.

One issue that concerned the duo was the widespread burning of arecanut waste. After experimenting with different methods, they developed a process to convert it into fertiliser, which has been well received by farmers in the area.

According to Deputy Range Forest Officer Keshav Murthy, who previously worked in Gubbi, the green cover in parts of Gubbi taluk has visibly improved because of the sustained efforts of Geeta and Yatish.

He notes that the duo has often faced resistance from both officials involved in infrastructure projects and local interests. "But they do not let go of trees easily," he says.

Nature as a lesson in Bantwal

ATHUL DAMALE

At Moodambailu Government Higher Primary School in Dakshina Kannada's Bantwal taluk, discarded single-use pens are repurposed into pen stands, while snack wrappers are transformed into eco-bricks. The wrappers are tightly stuffed into used plastic bottles to create a durable building material capable of withstanding stress and strain.

Here, learning often extends beyond textbooks, focusing on what children observe around them — a bird building a nest, a caterpillar transforming or waste finding a new use.

Guiding these activities is Aravinda Kudla, the in-charge headmaster, who believes nature itself can be an engaging classroom.

Over the years, he has woven environmental awareness into everyday learning, encouraging students to observe, document, create and question. He keeps himself updated on scientific concepts through various sources, including digital media, and applies them in the classroom.

In 2022, the school was selected among 20 institutions across the country for the Wipro Earthian Sustainability Programme and received a grant of Rs 50,000. The recognition came for 'My Waste, My Responsibility', a project undertaken by the school's eco-club.

As part of the programme, students tackled real-world environmental issues through practical waste-management activities. A team of students from Classes 6 to 8 recycled old newspapers into handmade paper for posters and drawings, and stitched old clothes into reusable bags.

Aravinda Kudla engages students in eco-conscious activities.

"Recycling newspapers was discontinued after the equipment broke down. However, the children continued their environmental efforts by preparing handmade pamphlets to promote eco-friendly practices in the school," says Aravinda.

"Later, during a programme, students made small bags from plastic-free brown binding sheets and burlap thread to distribute certificates and stationery items to participants."

Simple eco-friendly measures have also been introduced on campus, including repurposing old desks and benches as book racks to reinforce the 'reduce, reuse and recycle' principle.

The same year, students participated in the National Moth Week Caterpillar Rearing Project organised by the Mumbai-based iNaturewatch Foundation. As many as 22 students from Classes 6 to 8 collected over 100 caterpillars from nearby plants, reared them in observation boxes and documented each stage through notes and photographs until they emerged as moths and butterflies, gaining a practical understanding of metamorphosis.

Stories of nature

Apart from his work as an environment educator, Aravinda has authored a series titled *Hakki Kathe* for *Makkala Jagali*, an online magazine for children. Based on his observations and photographs of common local birds, the stories explore nesting patterns, behaviour and other unique characteristics.

Three of his stories — *Roopantara*, *Hulivesha* and *Bekkige Sikkidenu* — centred on environmental themes, were selected for Karnataka government primary school textbooks under the Nali Kali programme. "My aim is to help children develop observation skills, curiosity and critical thinking while building a lasting connection with nature," says Aravinda.

Currently, Aravinda and his students are documenting their surroundings as part of Nature Journaling Week conducted by Early Bird, an initiative of the Nature Conservation Foundation. Students are encouraged to observe, draw and record nature around them.

Aravinda also conducts birdwatching sessions for children, adults and community groups. He takes photographers and nature enthusiasts to bird habitats, sharing his knowledge and passion for birds. "My focus is primarily on children. However, when birdwatching groups approach me for sessions, I am happy to help," he says.

According to Deputy Director of Public Instruction G S Shashidhar, Aravinda's work adds a practical dimension to understanding nature through activity-based learning. "Beyond academics, he works towards shaping the personalities of children by involving them in eco-friendly activities," he adds.

Environmentalist Dinesh Holla says Aravinda's efforts prepare children not only for future careers but also to become responsible individuals who understand and value nature. "He inspires students to love nature and engage with it in a meaningful way," he says.

Ananda Naik, a farmer, says his two daughters developed a deep curiosity about insects, birds and the natural world through Aravinda's initiatives. "Aravinda regularly takes children to the fields, where they not only observe but also participate in activities such as transplanting rice seedlings in flooded fields. The curiosity nurtured during their school days continues to shape their academic pursuits even in college," Naik says.

From roads to shade in Chamarajanagar

SHILPA P

Disturbed by the large-scale felling of trees during road-widening works in Chamarajanagar nearly a decade ago, 53-year-old C M Venkatesh began planting saplings along roadsides across the district. Since then, he has planted around 17,000 trees, of which about 8,000 line a seven-kilometre stretch in Chamarajanagar city.

In the city, his efforts span several key roads and public spaces, including a stadium campus, a university campus and the government bus stand.

He has also involved schoolchildren in tree-planting drives across campuses. Beyond the city, the initiative has covered around 160 km of roads, including stretches linking Gundlupet, Male Mahadeshwara Hills, Yelandur, Kollegala, Hanur and Santhemarahalli.

Nearly 20 species of trees including banyan, pongamia and flowering trees like peltophorum, gulmohar and tabebuia rosea have been planted under the initiative. These trees have not just provided shade but have also beautified Chamarajanagar roads.

C M Venkatesh has planted over 17,000 trees across Chamarajanagar over the past decade.

Tree guards are used to protect the saplings. "Usually, 25% of newly planted saplings do not survive or are eaten by cattle but I replant them," says Venkatesh.

Venkatesh, an auditor and tax consultant, spends between Rs 300 and Rs 2,500 per sapling, besides transportation costs from Mysuru and other places. He spends about Rs 12,000 a week on watering plants and pays two workers around Rs 750 per day to help care for the plants for five days a week. Residents support the initiative by sponsoring water tankers on occasions such as birthdays and wedding anniversaries. His wife, Jayalakshmi, tends to saplings near their home and also by travelling to places such as MM Hills.

To sustain the initiative, Venkatesh and Jayalakshmi have invested significant personal time and resources. "During the pandemic, I sold my house and pledged my wife's gold jewellery to raise funds for planting and maintaining trees," he says.

"One day, while returning from Mysuru, I met a watermelon vendor who said that, in the absence of shade, he could do business only until 10 am and then again after 4 pm. That conversation stayed with me and I decided to plant trees," he says.

An ardent fan of Dr Rajkumar, Venkatesh planted his first 10 saplings on Railway Station Road on April 24, 2017, the actor's birth anniversary.

Later, Venkatesh who also runs a music school and an audio company, expanded the initiative by planting 250 trees at the district stadium as a tribute to S P Balasubrahmanyam. Saalumarada Thimmakka launched the drive on June 3, 2017.

"Besides providing green cover and enhancing the town's aesthetics, the trees have helped keep Chamarajanagar cooler," says K Devaraj, a resident.

M Malathi Priya, Conservator of Forests, Chamarajanagar Circle, says, "The Forest Department would be happy to work with such individuals in every possible way to contribute to environmental conservation."

When a school became a landmark

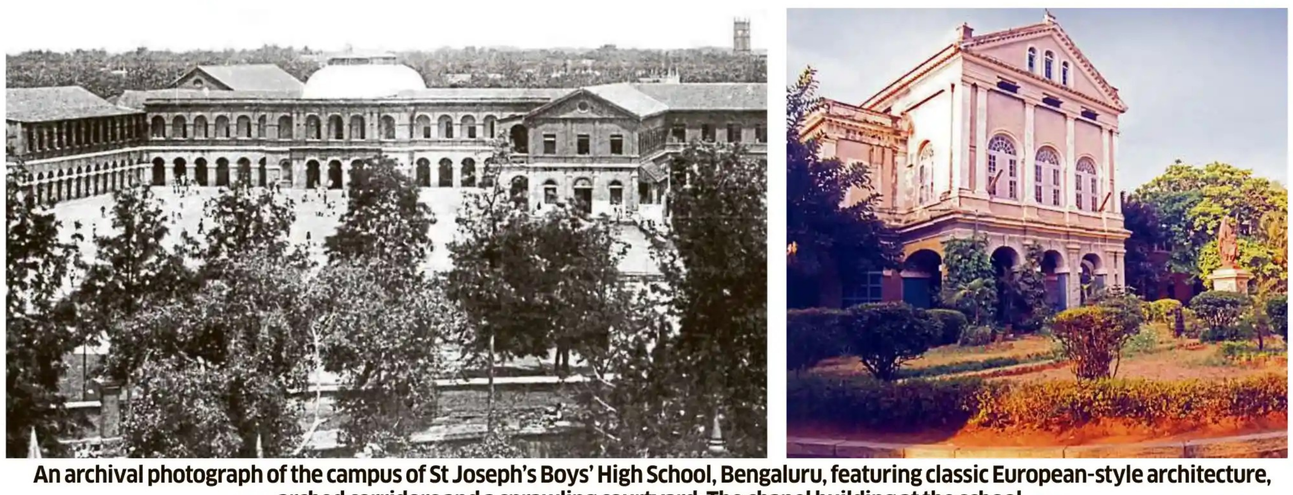
Rezwan Razack chronicles the journey of an educational institution in Bengaluru that has survived plagues and wars, and stood witness to a transforming city

Long before Bengaluru became a hub of technology and glass skyscrapers, the British Cantonment and its institutions were among the defining features of the city. Among the landmarks that have witnessed this changing cityscape is St Joseph's Boys' High School (SJBHS) on Museum Road. With over 168 years of rich history, the story of this iconic institution reflects not just academic endurance but a chronicle of historical incidents that mirror the birth of modern Bengaluru.

The foundation of the institution was laid in 1841 by Bishop Bonnaud, who envisioned a robust Catholic academy for the growing military station. However, it was not until 1854 that the vision took concrete shape.

Armed with a modest budget and relentless faith, French foreign missionaries from the Missions Étrangères de Paris (MEP) purchased a plot of land specially for the educational vision for just Rs 1,000 on St John's Hill. There, Father Bouteloup constructed a humble brick building at a cost of Rs 3,000. Named St Joseph's Seminary, it initially operated as a residential academy and a children's home.

A turning point came in 1858, now regarded as the school's official founding year. With the University of Madras introducing a rigorous matriculation framework, the institution opened its doors to all, transitioning from a secluded seminary into a proper school.



An archival photograph of the campus of St Joseph's Boys' High School, Bengaluru, featuring classic European-style architecture, arched corridors and a sprawling courtyard; The chapel building at the school.

As the Cantonment rapidly urbanised, the school required a larger campus to match its growing reputation. Father Maurice Vissac, an iron-willed Rector, recognised that the school's future lay in a grand, centralised campus. Under his leadership, the school acquired a sprawling, leafy estate known as Rocklands on Museum Road, strategically located adjacent to the Madras Bank (which later became the State Bank of India).

In 1898, the school officially migrated to its magnificent, classical European-style building on the new site. Yet, testing times lay just ahead.

In 1902, a devastating plague outbreak swept through Bengaluru. Terrified parents withdrew their children from classrooms, fleeing infected parts of the city and causing enrolment to plummet. However, the school endured, anchored by its resilient structure and a blossoming sports culture. This athletic spirit eventually necessitated the purchase of a vast playground further down the road, affectionately christened 'New Fields' (located on Vittal Mallya Road).

The modern era of St Joseph's was paradoxically catalysed by the tragedies of distant European battlefields. World War I decimated an entire generation of young men in France, leaving the MEP Fathers severely depleted and unable to staff their foreign missions adequately. Recognising these limitations, Bishop Despastures of Mysore decided in February 1937 to transfer the stewardship of all St Joseph's institutions to the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

The Jesuit transition was immediately tested by the outbreak of World War II. Because Italy was one of the Axis powers opposing the Allies, the Italian and German Jesuit priests running the school were classified as enemy aliens by the British colonial government. Many were arrested and sent to military internment camps. Despite this crisis, the school endured, kept afloat by the support of Swiss Jesuits and local Anglo-Indian educators, including the dedicated E J Jacques.

A modern legacy

Originally christened St Joseph's European High School to cater primarily to colonial and Anglo-Indian boys, the school permanently shed its exclusionary moniker in 1968. Re-emerging as St Joseph's Boys' High School, it cemented the inclusive, egalitarian identity it carries today.

More than 168 years after its modest beginnings on St John's Hill, the institution, today, remains one of Bengaluru's most respected schools, having nurtured generations of young boys into responsible citizens and global leaders.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to:
spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

IN BRIEF

Dharshan stars in KFD win

▶ Dharshan stole the show by netting four goals during Karnataka Forest Department's comfortable 7-1 win over Falcon Hockey Club in the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship on Wednesday, reports DHNS.

Results: Karnataka Forest Department: 7 (Dharshan 7th, 17th, 31st, 39th, Surya 9th, Mithun Bijwad 29th, Raghu Kurwar 47th) bt Falcon HC: 1 (Suresh 43rd); Hindustan Friends Club: 8 (Anand 11th, 36th, Lakshman 15th, 38th, 43rd, Suraj 26th, Hariharan 21st, 47th) bt Bengaluru Blues HC: 0.

Silicon FC post narrow victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Silicon FC held on to a goal each scored by Ashiq Ajith (18th), Zaidant Atif Ansari (41st) and Suchir Ranjan (47th) to secure a narrow 3-2 win over FC White Field United in the KSFA South Zone C Division Group A game at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Wednesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Goals by Kibenthung (21st) and R Sharuckasin (51st) weren't enough to rescue FCWFU in the closely-fought contest.

Results: South Zone: C Division: Group A: Silicon FC: 3 (Ashiq Ajith 18th, Zaidant Atif Ansari 41st, Suchir Ranjan 47th) bt FC White Field United: 2 (Kibenthung 21st, R Sharuckasin 51st); Blue Star: 4 (Praveen Kumar 26th, 36th, Yogesh VR 40th, Subramani 54th) bt Football Aura: 2 (Mohamned Adanan 43rd, Muhmed Akheel 50th); La Esperanza FC: 3 (Harish 26th, Alan 46th, 48th) bt PKR FC: 1 (Vikas 22nd).

Group B: Blues FA: 2 (Karthik K 16th, Karthik R 48th) bt Velocita FC: 0; Samurai Bangalore FA: 3 (Joyal Antony 22nd, Joshith Prajwal Reddy 28th, Rohan Mohan Maliakkal 34th) bt Universal Blues FC: 0; Kodagu Colts FC: 0 drew with Undisputed FC: 0.

D Division: Group A: Shooterz FC: 1 (Tharun Raj NJ 43rd) drew with Bangalore Falcon FC: 1 (Akash 17th).

Group B: Revolt FC: 3 (Tejash 10th, Hemanth 15th, 27th) bt VPS FC: 1 (Mayank 4th).

Sanfide's solitary goal takes India into final

MARGAO (GOA), PTI: Five-time champions India booked their place in the final of the SAFF Women's Championship with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over a resolute Bhutan in the second semifinal here on Wednesday.

India, who found the winner through Sanfida Nongrum in the 60th minute, will meet defending champions Bangladesh in the summit clash at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Sunday.

Having stormed into the knockout stage with 14 goals in two group matches, the hosts were expected to dominate, but Bhutan once again demonstrated the defensive discipline that had taken them to a third successive semifinal appearance.

Ranked nearly 100 places above Bhutan at 69th in the FIFA chart, India controlled possession for long periods but found it difficult to break down the compact Bhutan backline in a goalless first half.

The Blue Tigresses created a few chances through Karishma, Soumya Guguloth and Aveka Singh, but poor finishing and some alert goalkeeping kept the scores level at the break.

Result: India: 1 (Sanfida Nongrum 60th) bt Bhutan: 0.

◆ ON TV ◆

TENNIS

French Open: Mixed Doubles **(final, 3:30 pm)**, women's singles **(semifinal, 6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

CRICKET

First Test: England vs New Zealand **(day 1, 3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

BADMINTON

Indonesia Open: Round of 16 **(7:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar.**

India to play biggest-ever series in NZ this year

Tour to celebrate 150 years of sporting relations between two nations

AUCKLAND, PTI

India will tour New Zealand for a marathon all-format series from October 22 to December 1 this year, featuring an unprecedented 10 white-ball games in what would be the biggest men's bilateral cricket series ever held in this country.

India will take on the Black Caps in five T20Is, as many ODIs and two Tests across five major centres. The 12 matches would be the highest ever featuring a touring side in New Zealand's history.

The series would be a major landmark as the two countries celebrate 100 years of sporting ties.

The 40-day tour will begin with the opening T20I in Christchurch on October 22.

The T20I series will be followed by the ODI leg, which will start at Eden Park in Auckland on November 4.

The Test series will commence at the Cello Basin Reserve in Wellington from November 19 to 23, while the second and final Test will be played at Hagley Oval in Christchurch from November 27 to December 1.

"When it comes to cricket – it simply doesn't get bigger than India and we're determined to deliver New Zealanders a tour like no other," NZC Chief Marketing and Commercial Officer Glenn Critchley said.

Shubhman Gill and his men will tour New Zealand for five T20Is, an equal number of ODIs and two Tests starting October 22.

SCHEDULE

- **T20I series: 1st T20I: Oct 22 (Christchurch); 2nd T20I: Oct 24 (Christchurch); 3rd T20I: Oct 27 (Wellington); 4th T20I: Oct 30 (Auckland); 5th T20I: Nov 1 (Hamilton).**
- ODI series: 1st ODI: Nov 4 (Auckland); 2nd ODI: Nov 7 (Wellington); 3rd ODI: Nov 10 (Hamilton); 4th ODI: Nov 13 (Mount Maunganui); 5th ODI: Nov 15 (Mount Maunganui).
- **Test series: 1st Test: Nov 19-23 (Wellington); 2nd Test: Nov 27-Dec 1 (Christchurch).**

"This will be about more than just the cricket on the field - it will be a celebration of New Zealand's shared history and culture with India, and our burgeoning rivalry and friendship through cricket.

"The passion and the following this team has is staggering -- not to mention some of the players expected to tour such as Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah -- so we're bracing for the intensity and fandom that will accompany the tour," he added.

The series will mark India's first Test tour of New Zealand since the 2019-20 season.

Since then, New Zealand have visited India twice, including their historic 2024-25 tour when they completed a 3-0 sweep in the Test series.

The New Zealand Government will be supporting the India tour alongside adjacent sporting tours by the country later in the year, as 100 years of sporting ties between New Zealand and India are commemorated.

"It's always a special occasion playing India," New Zealand spinner Ish Sodhi said.

"They're an unbelievable cricket team, full of talent and star power – you know every time you face them it's going to be seriously challenging. The rivalry we've built in recent years is pretty staggering and I'm sure this tour will deliver many more big moments.

"Then there's the Indian fans and the energy and noise they bring – it really is like nothing else and something everyone should experience at least once in their life.

Sodhi was born in Ludhiana and moved to New Zealand with his family when he was just four years old.

CRICKET

Suryakumar set to lose T20 captaincy

Iyer, Tilak preferred as successor, confirmation likely before UK tour

MULLANPUR, PTI

Suryakumar Yadav is set to be removed as captain of the India T20 team and the all-powerful Apex Council might be informed of his status even before the squad for the UK tour is selected.

Shreyas Iyer and Tilak Varma have emerged as the top contenders to succeed Surya as the leader of the Indian T20 side.

It is expected that BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia will apprise the Apex Council about whether the national selection committee and head coach Gautam Gambhir are on the same page regarding Surya's removal.

It is clear that if Surya is removed from captaincy, he won't also remain in the side as a player after nearly 18 months of non-performance.

"Surya is set to be removed from captaincy. The selectors wanted to wait till the end of IPL to see whether he can get back to form. Since he looked completely out of form and not just out of runs... a tough call needs to be taken," a BCCI source aware of the developments said on Wednesday.

"The selectors would be dropping him from long list and had given an indication that Surya is now out of their scheme of things. "Shreyas Iyer and Tilak Varma are contenders to become next T20 captain."

However, the choice of captaincy isn't an easy one.

With his poor form extending into the IPL, Suryakumar Yadav is likely to be stripped of his T20 captaincy. FILE PHOTO

As reported last week, there are a couple of choices. With Surya getting dropped, Shreyas, an IPL winning skipper, looks an obvious choice. But the left-field choice could be Tilak, who many in the selection committee feel is an ideal candidate given his age.

"Tilak has been made captain for A series in Sri Lanka to check out his captaincy credentials."

It is understood that Gambhir has certain reservations about Shreyas, who was the captain of KKR in 2024, when the current India head coach was a mentor. At the time, Shreyas had publicly spoken about being underappreciated, something that didn't go unnoticed.

It's no secret that Gambhir's choice is Sanju Samson who had a wonderful T20 World Cup, but the selectors aren't convinced.

Siraj, Prasidh bowl at full tilt

MULLANPUR, PTI: Mohammed Siraj (**in pic**) and Prasidh Krishna bowled at full tilt for close to 25 minutes despite oppressive heat here on Thursday as India's preparations gathered pace ahead of the one-off Test against Afghanistan.

The Test match begins here on Saturday and will be followed by a three-match ODI series.

With some questions being raised over the workload of bowlers after a two-month-long IPL season, Siraj's intense spell in searing conditions indicated that the senior pacer was carrying no obvious fitness concerns.

Had he not been physically ready, it would have been difficult to sustain such effort under the scorching sun that is the hallmark of punishing summers in this part of the country.

The imposing 6-foot-5-inch right-arm fast bowler Gurnoor Brar also caught the eye during the session, extracting sharp bounce from a good length.

On at least two occasions, he induced outside edges from KL Rahul, who otherwise looked technically compact during his stint in the nets.

Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi Dar bowled in multiple phases and appeared steady, operating well within himself while maintaining his line and length.

Indians lose series ahead of World Cup

TAUNTON (UK), PTI

Alice Capsey's fiery 82 and Heather Knight's composed unbeaten 70 powered England to a series-clinching six-wicket victory over India in the third and final Women's T20I here.

England won the series 2-1, also giving India some points to ponder ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup where Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. will face Pakistan in their tournament opener in Birmingham on June 14.

England did the immediate task of scaling down 181 by reaching 184 for four in 18.3 overs.

It was their second highest run-chase in the shortest format, built around a 137-run alliance from just 76 balls for the fourth wicket between Capsey and Knight.

But the beginning of that trip was full of turbulence as England lost openers Sophia Dunkley, Danny Wyatt-Hodge and Amy Jones within the Power Play for a mere 38 on the board.

Pacer Kranti Goud, who has been recalled to the side, did the early damage, jettisoning Hodge and Jones. Hodge's dismissal came through a lovely delivery that nipped back to rattle her stumps. But England found stability as Capsey, who struck nine fours and three sixes in her 43-ball innings, and Knight, whose 42-ball innings featured 10 fours, blunted Indian bowlers.

Alice Capsey. X

Both Capsey and Knight needed a confidence-boost after recent failures, and they did it on a must-win occasion.

They duo relied on exquisite timing and placement to ward off Indian pacers and spinners alike. Capsey raced to her fifty in 27 balls, while Knight was tad more sedate off 31 balls.

Brief scores: India: 180/5 in 20 overs (Yastika Bhatia 32, Jemimah Rodrigues 29, Harmanpreet Kaur 56 n.o., Deepti Sharma 32; Lauren Bell 2-36) lt to England: 184/4 in 18.3 overs (Alice Capsey 82, Heather Knight 70 n.o.; Arundhati Reddy 2-31, Kranti Gaud 2-41). **Result:** England won by 6 wkts. **PoM:** Alice Capsey. **3-match series:** England won 2-1. **PoS:** Alice Capsey.

Can't repeat such mistakes in WC: Mandhana

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana pinned India's six-wicket defeat against England in the third T20I to their failure to bowl enough dot balls, and hoped not to repeat the mistake in the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup, reports PTI from Taunton.

"We definitely started extremely well with the ball, (reducing England to) 35 for 3. I wouldn't really take anything away from the partnership they had," Mandhana said at the post-match press conference.

"In hindsight, we would have been able to build pressure with a few dot balls, but we were not able to do that. We will definitely look at this game in a way where we can do better and not repeat these mistakes in the World Cup coming ahead," she added.

Sherpa wins Varahi Trophy

MYSURU RESULTS

JS Pillay-trained Sherpa, ridden by Alex Rozario, won the Varahi Trophy, the feature event of the races on Wednesday.

1. The Balamuri Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Knotty Methods (Shah Alam) 1, Bundelkhand Queen (SS Khadri) 2, Peter's Choice (H Rahul) 3, Brocston (Siddaraju) 4. WB: 3/4, 1, 3/4. T: 1:32.43. TB: VN Naik. Fav: Basic Instinct.

2. The Prince Regent Plate - 1100M: Choice (Jitendra Singh) 1, Biometric (C Umesh) 2, Sunway Lagoon (Shyam Kumar) 3, Arikattu (Sah Farid Ansari) 4. WB: 1/2, 1-1/2, 3/4. T: 1:09.32. TB: KS Mandanna. Fav: Biometric.

3. The Balamuri Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Natural Queen (S Shareef) 1, Perfect Heart (Sai Kiran) 2, City Of Hustle (S Imran) 3, Everwin (Ram Nandan Manjhi) 4. WB: 2-1/2, 1-1/4, 1-3/4. T: 1:31.36. TB: Mansoor Khan. Fav: Perfect Heart.

4. The Kolar Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Krishvi (C Umesh) 1, Natural Look (G Vivek) 2, Martino (A Fazal) 3, Kallania (AR Pradeep) 4. WB: 4, 5-1/2, Hd. T: 1:30.66. TB: KS Mandanna. Fav: Devate.

5. The Red Satin Plate - 1200M: Vandhiyathevan (C Umesh) 1, Drisana (Anil Baandal) 2, Bluemed (B Nikhil) 3, Absolutechallenger (Prabhu Kumar) 4. NR: Persian Rock. WB: 1/2, 2-3/4, 1/2. T: 1:15.07. TB: KS Mandanna. Fav: Vandhiyathevan.

6. The Varahi Trophy - 1200M: Sherpa (Alex Rozario) 1, Falcon Fury (A Mhatre) 2, Amazing Imrarifa (G Vivek) 3, Isabelle (Brijesh Kumar) 4. WB: 4-1/2, 4-1/4, 1-1/2. T: 1:14.53. TB: JS Pillay. Fav: Amazing Imrarifa.

7. The Kolar Plate (Div I) 1400M: Mind Games (A Mhatre) 1, Bold Show (Sah Farid Ansari) 2, Reigns Of Terror (CA Brisson) 3, To Hot To Touch (S Imran) 4. NR: Cloud Jumper, Cosette, Polar Wind and Code Of Honour. WB: 9-3/4, 2-1/4, 1/2. T: 1:29.78. TB: Ranjeet Shinde. Fav: Mind Games.

8. The Nagamangala Plate - 1400M: Gemini (Bharat Malhotra) 1, Aureole (Neeraj Rawal) 2, Prince Corporate (C Umesh) 3, Time For Victory (Ankush) 4. WB: Nose, Nk, Shd. T: 1:29.50. TB: M Bobby. Fav: Prince Corporate.

Mysuru dividends

I race: Tote: Rs 772 (w) 46, 36, 17 p; Shp: Rs 110; Thp: Rs 49; Fc: Rs 10722 C/F; Q: Rs 7552; Tri: Rs 37014 C/F.
II race: Tote: Rs 118 (w) 49, 12, 22 p; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 58; Fc: Rs 880; Q: Rs 317; Tri: Rs 2455 & 4910.
III race: Tote: Rs 47 (w) 11, 14, 17 p; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 102; Fc: Rs 152; Q: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 1587 & 1739.
IV race: Tote: Rs 67 (w) 13, 14, 32 p; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 70; Fc: Rs 397; Q: Rs 229; Tri: Rs 3466 & 2972.
V race: Tote: Rs 26 (w) 18, 13, 20 p; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 52; Fc: Rs 120; Q: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 571 & 552.
VI race: Tote: Rs 68 (w) 26, 26, 12p; Shp: Rs 56; Thp: Rs 51; Fc: Rs 192; Q: Rs 99; Tri: Rs 1913 & 771.
VII race: Tote: Rs 17 (w) 10, 10, 13 p; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 39; Fc: Rs 36; Q: Rs 23; Tri: Rs 90 & 35.
VIII race: Tote: Rs 158 (w) 47, 24, 20 p; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 32 ; Fc: Rs 2049; Q: Rs 1694; Tri: Rs 4095 & 1365.
(NOTE: There was no off-course betting in Bengaluru on Wednesday).

Gurindervir Singh

Gurindervir to lead Indian challenge at Asian Relays

NEW DELHI, PTI: National record holder in men's 100m, Gurindervir Singh, will lead a 29-member strong Indian contingent at the second Asian Relays Championships, to be held in the Chinese city of Shangyu on June 20 and 21.

The Indian contingent, selected by the Athletics Federation of India, will compete in all six relay events in China, said AFI president Bahadur Singh Sagoo.

"The competition in China will be a good opportunity for athletes to showcase their potential at the continental level," he added.

The third edition of the Asian Relays Championships will be held in Chandigarh.

The continental competition was recently allotted to India at the Asian Athletics Association Council Meeting held in Hong Kong.

The competition in China will be held in the men's 4x100m and 4x400m relay, women's 4x100m and 4x400m relay. The Indian team will also compete in mixed 4x100m and 4x400m relay.

Indian team: Men: 4x400m and mixed 4x400m: Theerthesh P Shetty, Avinash Kumar, Setu Mishra, Nihal Wiliam, S Santhosh, Rince Joseph, Suraj Alagar Raja, Mohit Kumar, Barath Sridhar.
4x100m and mixed 4x100m relay: Animesh Kujur, Gurindervir Singh, Harsh Santosh Raut, Pranav Pramod Gaurav, Ragul Kumar Ganesh Kumar, Senthil Kumar Tamilarasu.
Women: 4x400m and mixed 4x00m relay: Rashdeep Kaur, Poovamma MR, Ansa Babu, Vijaykumari GK, Saloni Nagar, Neeru Pathak, Subha V, Gowrinandana.
4x100m and mixed 4x100m relay: Nithya Gandhe, Tamanna, Sneha SS, Sudeshna Shivankar, Abinaya Rajarajan.

Praggu slays Carlsen; Gukesh's title hopes end

OSLO, PTI: Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa dealt another stunning blow to hometown hero and world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, defeating the Norwegian in a classical game for the second time at Norway Chess 2026 and boosting his bid to become the first Indian champion of the prestigious event.

R Praggnanandhaa

World champion D Gukesh's title hopes ended after another heavy Round 8 defeat to French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja, leaving him bottom of the table on eight points and still unable to halt a worrying run of form since his 2024 world title triumph.

In a remarkable achievement in the elite double round-robin event, Praggnanandhaa became the only player to beat Carlsen twice in classical games this year, underlining his growing stature.

With two rounds still to play, the win pushed 20-year-old Praggnanandhaa up to third place on 12 points, with Alireza second on 13 and American GM Wesley So still leading on 14 points after an Armageddon tie-break victory over Germany's Vincent Keymer.

Carlsen's poor run of form continued, leaving his bid for an eighth Norway Chess title all but over. The five-time world champion sits on just nine points, and even two classical wins is unlikely to be enough to pull him back into contention.

Carlsen has endured an uncharacteristically turbulent campaign, suffering a third defeat overall at the hands of Praggnanandhaa, who had also beaten him once in the 2024 edition of the tournament.

England aim to erase Ashes scars

LONDON, AFP: England will have a chance to prove they have learned from their Ashes drubbing when they face New Zealand in the first Test of their home season at Lord's on Thursday.

The tourists were swept aside 4-1 in Australia in a series that ended in January, sparking renewed criticism of Brendon McCullum's men over their ultra-aggressive "Bazball" style of cricket.

Attacking cricket has been the hallmark of McCullum's four years as England coach, starting with a thrilling series win over New Zealand in 2022.

But it has failed to deliver series wins against either Australia or India and McCullum accepts England must display greater cricket intelligence if they are to improve.

"I think from our point of view, we still want us to be recognisable from the past," he told reporters at Lord's on Tuesday, two days before the start of a three-Test series.

State athletics meet from today, big guns give it a miss

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Senior Athletics Meet starts at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here from Thursday, with the two-day competition serving as the Karnataka Athletics Association (KAA) trials for the Inter-State Athletics Championships later in the month.

The top three from each event will make the cut for the Karnataka squad for the Inter-States, taking place in Bhubaneswar from June 24 to 28 and is also the final trials for the September-October Asian Games.

However, some of the major names, especially the 100m and 400m runners, of the Karnataka athletics will skip the meet as the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) requested their exemption for various reasons, including the upcoming Asian Relay Championships in China on June 20-21.

The likes of SS Sneha (100m), MR Poovamma, Vijaykumari GK, Nihal Joel William (400m) have been included in the squad for the Asian Relays and are currently in the national camps.

Priya Mohan

Among other granted exemptions on the request of AFI are the country's leading 400m hurdler Yashas P, 110m hurdler Krishik M and 100m sprinter Manikanta Hoblidhar, who has been recovering from an injury since the International Relays in Chandigarh.

The likes of 400m runner Priya HM, mid-distance runner Priyanka C and long jumper Purushotham, among other key names, are set to participate.

Lokesh injured

Long jumper Lokesh Sathyanathan, who has returned to India from the US Collegiate with the intention to qualify for the Commonwealth Games and Asiad, has also requested an exemption, citing an injury. The 26-year-old athlete suffered a muscle injury during the Federation Cup in Ranchi, where he failed to breach the direct CWG qualifying mark of 8.05m with a best effort of 7.94m.

Lokesh is unlikely to recover in time for June 13's Indian Athletics Series 9 in Ludhiana, which is now the extended competition for CWG qualification. The athlete hopes to recover in time for the Inter-States while his participation remains subject to KAA's nod.

As far as his CWG aspirations are concerned, the AFI selection committee may still consider him as his 8.21m effort in US collegiate remains the best among Indian jumpers this season. The only caveat is that AFI doesn't ratify US collegiate performances.

Charles Leclerc

Leclerc extends Ferrari contract

PARIS, AFP: Charles Leclerc has agreed a multi-year extension with his "second family" Ferrari days out from his home Monaco Grand Prix, the Formula One team announced on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old has been with Ferrari since 2019, winning eight Grand Prix -- his last victory was in 2024 -- with his highest finish in the world championship being runner-up to Max Verstappen in 2022.

"Scuderia Ferrari HP announces the renewal of its agreement with Charles Leclerc, who will continue to wear the team's colours for the coming seasons of the Formula 1 World Championship," read a Ferrari statement on their website.

Leclerc, who sits in third position in this year's title race, just three points ahead of team-mate Lewis Hamilton, said that he was ecstatic to continue his dream drive with Ferrari.

"It's the team I've loved and dreamt of being part of since I was a child, and after all these years it has become a second family," he said.

"Together we've shared incredible moments and some tougher ones, but I believe in this team more than ever, and I'm deeply grateful that we will keep pushing side by side toward our shared goal of bringing the World Championship back to Maranello.

"Being a Ferrari driver is a dream, but it's also a responsibility I never take for granted."

TENNIS FRENCH OPEN

Shnaider puts Sabalenka to shade on a blustery day

Russian ousts world No. 1 to set up semifinal date with qualifier Chwalinska

PARIS, AFP

Diana Shnaider celebrates after defeating world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the quarterfinal of the French Open in Paris on Wednesday. REUTERS

Aryna Sabalenka's bid for a first French Open title was left in tatters as she fell apart in a bizarre defeat by Russian 25th seed Diana Shnaider in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

The world No. 1 led by a set and a double-break before exiting the tournament in a blaze of unforced errors, collapsing to a 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 loss in blustery conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Shnaider will face Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska in the semifinals on Thursday, with Marta Kostyuk or Mirra Andreeva awaiting the winner in Sunday's final.

Meanwhile, Flavio Cobolli came back from a set down to beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in the men's singles quarterfinals.

By eliminating the Canadian fourth seed, Cobolli has ensured that there will be an Italian man in the final come Sunday.

In women's draw, Sabalenka was the only Grand Slam champion left in either the men's or women's singles draws at Roland Garros, but belied that status by making a whopping 57 unforced errors.

Shnaider was playing in her first major quarterfinal, but now finds herself a strong favourite to reach the final heading into her last-four tie against world number 114 and fellow left-hander Chwalinska.

Later, world No. 114 Chwalinska continued her stunning French Open run by becoming just the second women's qualifier to reach the last four at Roland Garros in the professional era. However, the 24-year-old told reporters that her accomplishments were yet to fully sink in.

Chwalinska again defied the odds to down Russian 22nd seed Anna Kalinskaya 7-6 (3), 6-3.

It was her eighth win at the tournament after she battled through three qualifying rounds to reach the main draw of a major for just the third time in her career.

Earlier, Czech youngster Jakub Mensik produced a brilliant display to upstage Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca and reach the semifinals late on Tuesday night.

The 20-year-old Mensik beat Fonseca 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (3) in the night session on Court Philippe Chatrier to extend his best run at a Grand Slam.

Mensik, the world number 27, will take on second seed and title favourite Alexander Zverev on Friday for a place in the final.

He is the youngest Czech men's semifinalist at a major and the first from his country to reach the last four since Tomas Berdych at Wimbledon in 2017.

It was the youngest Roland Garros men's quarterfinal since a 20-year-old Rafael Nadal beat Novak Djokovic in 2006.

Balaji-Demoliner lose

Indian tennis player N Sriram Balaji and his Brazilian partner Marcelo Demoliner saw their impressive French Open men's doubles campaign end in the quarterfinals after a straight-sets defeat to the second-seeded pair of Harri Heliovaara and Henry Patten.

The Indo-Brazilian duo lost 3-6, 4-6 in a match that lasted one hour and 17 minutes.

Results (prefix denotes seeding): Quarterfinals: Men: 10-Flavio Cobolli (Ita) bt 4-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Women: 25-Diana Shnaider (Rus) bt 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) 3-6, 7-5, 6-0; Maja Chwalinska (Pol) bt 22-Anna Kalinskaya (Rus) 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Ayush marches ahead; Sat-Chi retire hurt

Prannoy suffers defeat to Ireland's Nguyen in 1st round

JAKARTA, PTI

Ayush Shetty

Young Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty came from behind to pull off a dramatic victory and advance to the pre-quarterfinals, while star men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were forced to retire midway through their opening-round match at the Indonesia Open here on Wednesday.

Shetty, ranked 20th, battled for 66 minutes before registering an 8-21, 22-20, 21-15 win over World No. 15 Hong Yang Weng of China in the opening round of the Super 1000 tournament.

After being outplayed in the first game, the 21-year-old Indian produced a spirited fightback, overturning an 11-15 deficit in the second game with a series of superb rallies to force a decider.

The Badminton Asia Championships silver medallist looked in complete control in the third game as he sealed his place in the second round, where he will face Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu.

Satwik and Chirag, meanwhile, were forced to retire just seven minutes -- while trailing 6-11 against Malaysia's Kang Khai Xing and Aaron Tai -- into their opening men's doubles match after a shoulder problem troubled the former.

In men's singles, HS Prannoy suffered a first-round exit after losing to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in a hard-fought three-game encounter. After dropping the opening game 17-21, Prannoy bounced back to take the second 21-16 but went down 19-21 in the decider.

India U-18 teams post big wins

KAKAMIGAHARA (JAPAN), PTI: The Indian men's hockey team produced a clinical display, thrashing Chinese Taipei 13-1 in its last Pool A match to storm into the semifinals of the U-18 Asia Cup 2026 here on Wednesday.

India ended their pool engagements with wins against Kazakhstan, Korea and Chinese Taipei, while losing to hosts Japan. It gave them nine points from their four matches. Meanwhile the Indian women's team, who are already through to the semifinals, India produced a sensational display of attack to thrash Singapore 25-0 in their final Pool A match.

The emphatic victory ensured India finished the pool stage with an all-win record and topped Pool A on their way to the semifinals.

Beckham to get star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES, AFP: Football superstar David Beckham is to be honoured with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, organisers announced on Tuesday, as the United States readies to host the World Cup.

Movie legend Tom Cruise and the player's pop star-turned-fashion designer wife Victoria Beckham will be at the ceremony on June 12 to unveil the plaque immortalising the British midfielder on Hollywood's most famous thoroughfare.

The ceremony for the 51-year-old former England captain will take place hours before the first game on US soil in this year's World Cup, which is being jointly hosted by Mexico, Canada and the United States.

"David Beckham's recognition with a Hollywood Walk of Fame star in the Sports Entertainment category comes at a fitting moment as the United States prepares to host the FIFA World Cup," said Ana Martinez of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. "Beckham's role in elevating football's profile in America and his lasting influence on sports, entertainment, and global culture make this honour especially meaningful," she said.

During his club playing career, Beckham spent time at Manchester United, Real Madrid, AC Milan, the American side LA Galaxy, and PSG, where he retired in 2013.

David Beckham

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